The Edith Cavell building time capsule opened after more than 40 years

On July 29, a 40 year-old time capsule that was placed behind a brick in the wall of the Edith Cavell building at QHC BGH was opened to reveal a variety of items including old media clippings about the building’s construction, old photographs and an invitation to the stone laying. The building was originally constructed as the Edith Cavell Regional School of Nursing and officially opened on September 27, 1972. Just a few months later, nursing schools were transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Department of Colleges and Universities. On August 31, 1973 the Board of Directors of the Edith Cavell Regional School of Nursing surrendered its Charter. Since then, the building has been used for physician offices, Outpatient Mental Health Services and the Children’s Treatment Centre. The building has been empty since 2012 and is expected to be demolished by the end of September.

Among those in attendance during the time capsule ceremony were Madge Flindall, former Principal of the Edith Cavell Regional School of Nursing; Ray Krock, former Assistant Administrator and later Executive Director of BGH; Bob Joy, former Director of Hospital Services; Selma Bochnek, active Auxiliary member and former Board member; Bruce Cronk, formerly part of QHC’s medical staff; Bruce Maitland, former Assistant CEO; and Ross McDougall, former Mayor of Belleville, and former QHC Board and Foundation Chair. Susan McConnell and Irene Curtin who both currently work in Endoscopy at QHC BGH were also at the ceremony as they were part of the first class of students to attend the Edith Cavell Regional School of Nursing in 1972.

QHC welcomes Jeff Hohenkerk as Vice President

Edith Cavell was a British nurse and patriot. She is celebrated for saving the lives of soldiers from all sides without distinction and in helping some 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium during World War I, for which she was arrested. She was subsequently court-martialed, found guilty of treason and sentenced to death. Despite international pressure for mercy, she was shot by a German firing squad. Her execution received worldwide condemnation and extensive press coverage. She is well known for her statement that “patriotism is not enough”. Her strong Anglican beliefs propelled her to help all those who needed it, both German and Allied soldiers. She was quoted as saying, “I can’t stop while there are lives to be saved. (Details taken from Wikipedia)

Support the Quinte Children’s Treatment Centre by purchasing a Tim Horton’s Smile Cookie

From September 23 – 29, two nearby Tim Horton’s locations will be running their annual one-week charity fundraiser called Smile Cookie. Chocolate chunk cookies with smiley faces on them will be sold for $1 and the entire proceeds of the cookie sales will be donated to the Quinte Children’s Treatment Centre. The two participating locations are located on Highway 401: Trenton North Travel Plaza and the Trenton South Travel Plaza.
stood out for his track-record of enhancing the patient experience and improving staff morale.” When Jeff is not at work, he enjoys spending quality time with his wife, who is also in the health care field as a Director of Nursing, and his two daughters, ages 15 and 12. “My daughters and wife are making me watch Say Yes to the Dress – and I love that show. We also watch Cake Boss and Love it or List it. I watch these shows with these three girls and we have a lot of fun,” he said. Jeff also enjoys being active, he belongs to a hockey league and is the Captain of a Dragon Boat Team. Although he has been to Disney World seven times, he and his family travel to a variety of areas and most recently spent time in Antigua and Tortola, located in the British Virgin Islands. Although Jeff has only been with QHC for a short time, he says he is very impressed by the people, their willingness to make a difference and intent to do a good job. He says that he is excited about the direction that QHC is headed. “I can see the progression and that QHC is headed in the right direction. I can see QHC being one of the most progressive health care sites in the province of Ontario and I am excited to be part of it,” he said.

In his new role as VP, Jeff has responsibility over the Emergency/Primary Care Program; Diagnostic Services; Pharmacy Services; Human Resources and Support Services. He started in his role at QHC on August 12.

An idea that blossomed

The Senior Leadership Team and QHC Board of Directors wanted to thank staff and celebrate the success on the achievement of the four “Widely Important Goals” that were set for 2012/13. Throughout the months of May and June, SLT handed out packets of seeds during huddle meetings as a creative way to say ‘thank you’. Together we: helped keep our patients safe; reduced the time they were waiting in emergency rooms; ensured more patients are receiving care in the most appropriate place for their needs; and contributed to the long-term sustainability of our health care system. Great job everyone!

New Medical Day Clinic at QHC TMH officially opens on September 10

The Medical Day Clinic at QHC Trenton Memorial Hospital will officially open on Tuesday, September 10 and will cater to patients who require non-emergent transfusions, infusions and medical procedures. Prior to the Medical Day Clinic opening, these procedures have been done in the Emergency Department.

The new clinic will be located in the Ambulatory Care area (previously the Special Care Unit) at QHC TMH and will be open two days each week, Tuesday’s and Wednesday’s from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., starting on September 3. At that time, the Medical Day Clinic at QHC Belleville General Hospital will also be open for two days each week, Thursday’s and Friday’s from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bookings for the Medical Day Clinic at QCH TMH are by physician only and are now being accepted. All referrals (for both clinics) are to be directed to Medical Day Clinic Bookings, which is located in Oncology at QCH BGH.

Additional information regarding the Medical Day Clinics, as well as a brochure for patients, is available on the QHC website at www.qhc.on.ca

Medical Day Clinic - A Patient's Story

The Medical Day Clinic at QHC Belleville General Hospital is a great improvement. I have been receiving IVIG therapy for 10 years. Initially my treatments were given in Emerg and while the doctors and staff went out of their way for me and treated me well, the overall situation was poor.

My appointment was usually for 9 a.m. and if I made it into the department by 11 a.m. it was a good day. My visit days were usually 12 hours for treatment and I was placed in a hallway, often by a mop and bucket. A couple of times I was sent home from Emerg as there was no space available. As a wheelchair bound patient, sitting and unable to change position for extended periods, these visits to the ER were way too lengthy. As well, I had concerns about all the germs I was being exposed to and then taking home with me.

With the new clinic, timing is very efficient. I am usually in and out the door in 4-5 hours. There are no wait times and staff are very accommodating. I find it to be a healthy environment not being surrounded by ill patients. I am now receiving efficient care in a pleasant atmosphere. I really appreciate the changes QHC has made. The Medical Day Clinic has made my life a lot nicer.
A new bladder scanner at QHC PECMH

Point of Care at QHC TMH goes live in October

Construction is currently underway to prepare two rooms in the Emergency area at QHC TMH for the new Point of Care (POC) analyzers, which are expected to “go live” in October. Point-of-care testing is proven to provide highly reliable, efficient results, reduce wait times and increase patient satisfaction.

Once the construction is complete and the analyzers are in place, point-of-care testing will replace the lab at QHC TMH and there will be one technician available, seven days per week who will work from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to perform morning inpatient collection and process outpatients.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been part of the process to incorporate point-of-care testing at QHC TMH. There has been extensive consultation with staff and physicians and we appreciate everyone who has been helping the team work through the details.

QHC’s PARTY program returns

The PARTY program is back at QHC and is once again supported by the Trenton Memorial Hospital Foundation and Quinte Rotary Sunrise. PARTY is an in-hospital, interactive injury prevention program for teenagers. It was developed at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in 1986 by Emergency Room staff after experiencing a large number of trauma cases involving young people.

On September 19, students at Loyalist College will partake in an extraction scenario sending a strong message to students about drunk and distracted driving ( ie. texting while driving). Vicki Courneyea will be representing QHC and participating in this event. She has been working in the Trenton Emergency this summer and recently returned to her position as lead for QHC’s PARTY program.

Kudos!

Below are just a few of the comments that were received from students who participated in QHC’s PARTY program this past May, giving kudos to the program and to Vicki and all the PARTY volunteers for a job well done!

“I believe that you most definitely saved more than one life because you have saved mine and have made me want to look out for my friends.”

“It just truly goes to show that making a bad decision can really affect your family and friends.”

“I have been told (information about practicing safely) for a very long time but I believe that this program that you have put together will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

Thank you for supporting medical equipment needs at QHC PECMH

On August 21, Adam and Chrissy Busscher, along with their families and the staff at Picton Home Hardware were pleased to present the Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital Foundation with a cheque for $7,373. The money was raised at an electronics recycling event held at Home Hardware this past spring. These events, made possible by a large group of dedicated volunteers, divert e-waste from landfills and ship the waste so it can be properly dismantled and recycled by processors in Ontario.

The money raised will assist in the purchase of priority medical equipment to enhance patient care at QHC PECMH. Medical equipment purchases are not government funded, which means that donations help to purchase equipment that has been prioritized as an urgent need. Most recently, donations through the PECMH Foundation from the community paid for a new bladder scanner, which is frequently being used by the medical staff at QHC PECMH (see story above).

The Foundation sincerely thanks Home Hardware for their generous and ongoing support of QHC PECMH. As well, many thanks are extended to the volunteers working the e-waste days. Home Hardware hopes to host another e-waste day in late September.
Thank You!

“I was flabbergasted by the care provided (at QHC TMH). It was a wonderful experience and I felt like I was at the Hilton and being treated at a 5 star hotel. The care was seamless. I received the best care – the Dr. (Dr. Chris Hayman) was informative, and the charge nurse introduced herself and told me who would be taking care of me. The housekeeping, porter and x-ray staff, well everyone was just wonderful. I couldn’t have received anything better.”

“I wanted to say thank you to the nurses and Dr. Hayman that attended to my burns on July 4 in the QHC TMH ER. The group of people that helped me was caring, kind and made a very scary time much easier. The fact that you gave my 10 year old something to eat was above and beyond. I can’t tell you how grateful I am for the wonderful care.”

“Just a note to thank everyone who was involved in caring for Bl (Aug 3 - 11). First, we would like to thank Dr J Istead and the nursing staff in the Emergency Department who stabilized Bl and allowed family to see him prior to going into the ICU. We felt that he was always with skilled and sympathetic medical and nursing staff. Once in the ICU, we were provided with the most professional, knowledgeable and caring doctors and nursing staff. Every question and concern was answered in a timely and serious manner. We were treated with so much kindness and understanding and allowed to take as much time as needed to say good-bye to our loved one. “Thank you” is a simple phrase, but still meant to show that we appreciated the kindness shown to us. Again, thank you.

On a personal note and as an employee of Quinte Health Care, I would like you to know that because this is the first SSU that has been introduced at QHC, they will need to collect standardized information in order to identify the patient’s needs. Based on the results of the HOBIC, a nursing care plan is developed which helps educate the patient and family, assists with medication reconciliation, and links the patient to appropriate community supports. If a patient is admitted to the Short Stay Unit and their predicted length of stay goes over the 72 hours, then the patient would convert to acute and be moved into the appropriate bed.

Recently, my husband was admitted to your hospital. I am writing this letter to thank the staff for all the care he received. First in emergency, he was taken care of immediately, no waiting once he went though triage. He was quickly taken to a bed where a nurse took care of him until the doctor arrived shortly after. After the test results came back, Dr. Barnabi was in to see him and had him admitted. He was then taken to a room on the 6th floor where nurses Lindsay, Christie and Meghan were his nurses for the duration of his stay. We could not ask for better service. They were very pleasant, made my husband very comfortable and always checking to see if he needed anything. I don’t recall the name of the nurse or doctor in emergency, but they were very pleasant and helpful as well. I believe her name was Mary... Unfortunately, we were on vacation at the time of this emergency, however, the view from his room was like staying at a 5-star resort with a view. We found the hospital to be very clean and every person we spoke with was very friendly. We wish if we had another emergency (not saying we want one) we could go to Belleville General Hospital... Please forward this letter to the staff in Emergency and to those on the 6th floor so they know how much they were appreciated.

QHC Trenton Memorial Hospital has recently introduced a Short Stay Unit (SSU) which provides targeted care for patients with anticipated short hospital stays.

The Short Stay Unit was introduced at TMH early August and although it is still too soon to measure, it is expected that the SSU will reduce the patient length of stay, thus reducing the risk of hospital-acquired infections, increasing patient flow, increasing patient satisfaction and yielding more efficient use of hospital beds.

The admitting criteria for the beds on the SSU are: a patient has a predicted hospital stay of less than 72 hours; the patient has no cognitive concerns; and there are no discharge barriers. The task of the RN assigned to the Short Stay Unit is to provide more focused care related to identifying the patient’s needs in dealing with the disease process. The RN will employ the Health Outcomes for Better Information and Care (HOBIC) initiative which means they will collect standardized information in order to identify the patient’s needs. Based on the results of the HOBIC, a nursing care plan is developed which helps educate the patient and family, assists with medication reconciliation, and links the patient to appropriate community supports. If a patient is admitted to the Short Stay Unit and their predicted length of stay goes over the 72 hours, then the patient would convert to acute and be moved into the appropriate bed.

IPAC Tip of the Month

A ‘Bath in a bag’ consists of disposable cleansing washcloths that allow care providers to clean and moisturize patients. However, please note the following:

• The ‘Bath in a bag’ replaces the basin, not the shower or bathtub;
• A large package of barrier wipes is not to be taken into the patient’s room due to possible contamination, which would result in the entire package having to be thrown out;
• Holders for convenient use of wipes can be provided by the company and installed outside of the room (contact IPAC at x 2361 or arrange); and
• Barrier cloths are to be used only as the final treatment of skin much like using a barrier cream.

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