

Celebrating the “key” to a new chapter in health care

Marked by an event on October 13, 2010, Sault Area Hospital officially took possession of the new building and the keys to a state-of-the-art hospital, which opens to patients on March 6, 2011.

A major milestone for the new Sault Area Hospital (SAH)

On October 13, 2010, SAH reached “substantial completion”, signifying that construction is complete and the facility has been turned over to hospital officials to begin transition planning.

The new SAH is the largest public construction project in the history of Algoma and it is virtually complete. “This is an exciting step in the progression of the project because it means that construction has come to an end, and we have taken possession of the building,” says Harry Koskenoja, Director of New Hospital Development.

Achieving substantial completion means that a number of requirements have been met, including:

- Building systems are installed and commissioned and maintenance employees are trained.
- All facility commissioning is complete.
- Hospital systems are installed in accordance with specifications.
- Facility is cleaned.
- Major built-in equipment is installed and commissioned.

What’s next? Training and orientation

Taking possession of the building does not mean that the hospital is ready for occupancy. In fact, much work remains in order to ensure a smooth transition to the new building.

The next major phase of the project will focus on orientation and training, a massive undertaking given both the degree of change the organization will



Left to right: Simon Chapman, Carillion, John Bisanti, Ellis Don and Chair of Hospital Infrastructure Partners (HIP), Elaine Pitcher, SAH Board Chair, Ron Gagnon, SAH President & CEO, Phil Virene, Chair of the New Hospital Committee and Marco DiCarlantonio, Fengate Capital.

face, and the sheer number of staff, physicians and volunteers.

From October 15 to November 15, the new hospital project team will conduct tours for staff, physicians and volunteers, which will acquaint them with the new building and provide an opportunity for them to take in the surroundings.

Phase 1 of on-site training and orientation will occur from November 15 until December 20 to provide staff with information on matters such as parking, entry and exit points, locker/change rooms, meeting rooms, where to eat and wayfinding, as well as orientation on new building systems such as the pneumatic tube and nurse call system. The second phase includes both clinical unit-specific training and general training for other non-clinical groups. Focused training for clinical areas will provide unit-specific education on new computers, equipment and work processes.

Scheduling the training is as complex as the actual training and the move. In addition to the tight training schedule, equipment—with the exception of large built-in pieces in Diagnostic Imaging, which have already been installed—and furniture will start arriving in November. This includes desks, cabinets, beds, chairs, tables, computers, phones and office equipment. The installation of both equipment and

Information Technology (IT) applications are massive projects yet to be completed before the move.

Moving to the new hospital

In January, designated teams will be put in place for the patient move, which will take place on March 6. Hospital departments will begin moving in early February. Although minor glitches are to be expected, everyone is working hard to ensure that the move goes as smoothly as possible for patients and staff.

The move from our current sites to a much larger facility with new technology and equipment will undoubtedly result in a significant learning curve.

“Once the move is completed, I think that everyone at SAH and in our community will be pleased that we have come so far and finally reached the end of a long but incredibly rewarding journey. For most of us, this will truly be a once-in-a-lifetime event,” says Koskenoja.

Stay tuned for public open house

Residents from the community and region can look forward to a “sneak peek” of the facility during public open houses planned for early February 2011. Stay tuned for more details!

Convenient Access to the new SAH

Whether travelling by private vehicle, taxi or public transit, patients and visitors will have a number of options for getting to the new site as well as multiple entrances to the hospital and plenty of parking.

By Car or Taxi

- New traffic lights on Great Northern Road mark the main entrance to the new SAH.
- Second entrance located off Third Line, just east of Great Northern Road.
- Alternate north/south arteries connecting to Third Line include Black Road, Old Garden River Road and Landslide Road.
- New Third Line extension makes access from the west end of the city much faster and more convenient.
- Road surrounding the entire hospital, providing easy access to building entrances and parking lots.

Bus Routes

- Two bus routes will service the new hospital.
- Bus shelter located south of the main entrance/lobby. Another bus stop is located at the southeast end of the building near the Mental Health Department.
- New bus routes will commence in January 2011. Maps and schedules will be available to the public in November 2010 and can be found at www.cityssm.on.ca under “Transit Services.”

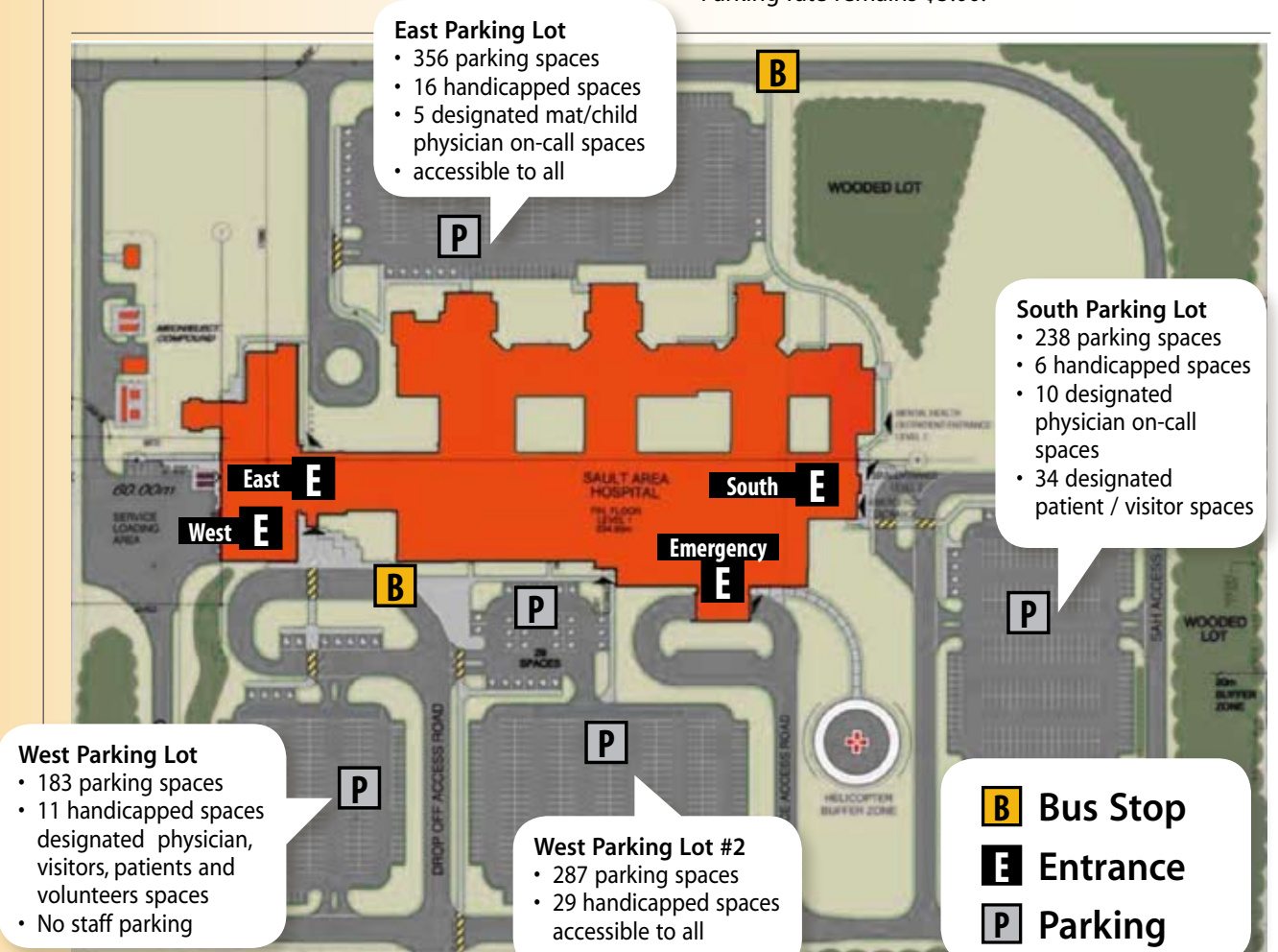
Entrances

- Three main public/visitor entrances:
 1. West entrance leading into the lobby
 2. East entrance leading into the food court with direct access to Cancer Centre and Maternal/Child unit
 3. South entrance located next to Emergency Department

- Separate entrance at the south end leading directly into the Emergency Department for ED patients only.

Parking

- Four parking lots surround the new hospital making it easier to park near specific department entrances.
- Dedicated lot in front of lobby entrance for patients, visitors, physicians and volunteers only.
- Parking rate remains \$5.00.



Milestones

Groundbreaking	●	August 23, 2007
Occupancy permit	●	August 19, 2010
Substantial completion	●	October 13, 2010
Training and orientation	●	October 15, 2010 – March 4, 2011
Public open house	●	February 2011
Patient move	●	March 6, 2011

Construction Statistics

Look how far we've come – a pictorial overview

- 500 to 600 tradespeople were on site at the peak of construction activity.
- More than 60 subcontractors were involved in the project.
- 80 per cent or more of skilled tradespeople were from Sault Ste. Marie and the immediate area.
- Approximately \$105 million in salaries was paid to tradespeople over the life of the project.
- Value of goods and services purchased locally is between \$15 and \$23 million.
- Approximately 2 million person-hours were spent constructing the facility.



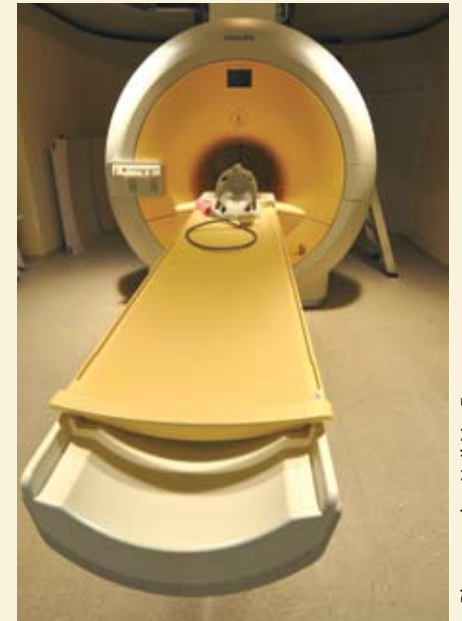
Helipad ↴

Lobby ↴



Courtyard ↴

MRI ↴



Photography: Neil MacEwan

Looking northeast ↴



For more information

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