

Mary Pollack, a new resident in Concordia Place, along with Premier Gary Doer, Pollack's granddaughter Meg Specht and her daughter Linda Specht, and hospital board member Henry Willms helped cut the ribbon to officially open Concordia Place.

Care home opening a 'red-letter day' for Concordia Hospital

By Wanda McConnell
Herald Editor

June 13 was a red-letter day for Concordia Hospital as it officially opened its new 140-bed personal care home.

"This is the most significant event to take place since the hospital opened in 1974," David Olfert, chair of the hospital board, told a large crowd of dignitaries and guests gathered for the occasion.

The \$17.2-million facility - \$3.2 million was contributed by Concordia Hospital - is called Concordia Place. It's a free-standing four-storey building with an underground link to the hospital.

Sixty residents from the interim personal care unit in the hospital moved into Concordia Place in early

May. The facility should be fully occupied by mid-August.

Premier Gary Doer, who is the MLA for Concordia, told the gathering that the personal care home, announced two years ago by the former Conservative government, is "long overdue" and that the need for the facility "has been well-demonstrated."

He said the new facility frees up acute care beds for what they're intended to be. "To have patients in the wrong beds is an inefficient use of health care dollars."

The 60 beds freed up in the hospital will relieve some of the overcrowding Concordia experiences at times.

He also commended GBR Architects and Bockstael Construction for taking into account each resident's individuality when designing and building Concordia Place. "It really adds dignity and personality to the centre," he said.

He concluded by congratulating the community for working together on the project.

An example of how oth-

ers in the community were involved, says board member Anne Jorowski, was the efforts of students in the Kiwanis Builders and KEY clubs from John Henderson Junior High and Miles Macdonell Collegiate. Students planted all of the flower beds around the hospital and personal care home and picked up litter prior to the official opening.

Sig Enns, former executive director of the hospital, marvelled over the spaciousness of the new building. "That kind of extra space, beyond what patients need in their rooms, gives a wonderful feeling. The building is well-conceived and beautiful," he said.

Meanwhile, Bill Patmore, Concordia's current executive director, can turn his attention to the vacated space in the hospital now that the new care home is open.

He says the former interim personal care beds will be used for medicine (27), post acute orthopedic surgery (14), orthopedic rehab (12), and medicine or surgery (7). As well, the hospital's oncology department is relocating to that area.



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