

St. Mary's Hospital Community Cancer Care Centre

The official opening of the St. Mary's Hospital Community Cancer Care Centre took place on February 1, 2008. The Centre, which treats one of the largest Cancer Patient populations on the island, underwent a radical, \$5.2 million makeover to ameliorate facilities for greater patient access and increased services.

For the past year, St. Mary's celebrated and widely-respected Community Cancer Care Centre was relocated to another floor of the hospital, in order to renovate the entire East Wing of the 3rd floor for the complete refurbishment of the unit. Through revised process engineering, the newly-renovated area will streamline patient services by including onsite blood testing resulting in a more seamless patient-doctor-treatment experience.

"The previous facilities had been put under tremendous strain in an effort to meet the increased patient load, address the complexities of patient needs, while trying to keep pace with the ever-evolving face of contemporary medicine," said Dr. Jaroslav Prchal, Chief of Oncology.

Through the outpouring of support from the private sector – with a lead gift from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital of Montreal Foundation – enough funds were raised to take on this massive project. No detail was overlooked to maximize the existing space, and strategize for optimal patient care and access to services with six full-time oncologists and three full-time palliative care doctors.

Our state-of-the-art Community Cancer Care facilities now feature the following:

A 22-station Treatment Centre

- Central nurses/medical practitioner stations will maximize efficiency of testing, diagnosis and treatment, greatly assuaging the heightened anxiety of waiting patients.
- An enlarged out-patient area will respond to advancements in day treatments, thereby alleviating the stress on the patient and reducing costs to the Hospital.
- It is a unique concept of an area that offers both sophisticated equipment and a social contact between patients and staff.

2 Isolation Rooms

- Especially in these times of increased sensitivity to exposing those with challenged immune systems to environmental threats, these isolation rooms will prove invaluable to patients who require the added security of seclusion during their day treatments.

8 Exam Rooms

- An increased number of exam rooms will have an immediate impact in handling the ever-increasing patient load.
- New exam rooms are structured for optimal working environment, resulting in improved patient care and enhancing the confidence of the patient.

A Centralized Open-Concept Satellite Pharmacy

- Cancer Care constitutes 30% of St. Mary's entire pharmacological traffic. An expanded, modernized oncological pharmacy will create a more efficient resource to handle the volume of patients at an accelerated pace.
- Facility that meets all new standards for preparation of chemotherapy to ensure safety of patients and workers
- Dedicated office to meet with pharmacist privately

The Girls for the Cure Resource Room

- For 12 years, The Girls for the Cure – a group of 6 private girls' schools – has raised much-needed funds for cancer services here in Montreal. In honour of their efforts, which have greatly impacted our ability to better serve this community, a resource room is named after them in the renovated unit. This Family/Support group room reflects our commitment to care for the whole person.

Meticulous care was taken throughout the planning of the new Community Cancer Care Centre to create an environment that exemplifies well-being and appreciates the challenges faced by patients and their loved ones during these difficult times.

As a university affiliated community-based hospital (CHAU), St. Mary's Hospital Center strives to serve a multicultural population with the highest level of patient and family-focused health care. Inspired by our traditions and guided by our values, St. Mary's is committed to caring through excellence and innovation. *Healthcare on a Human Scale.*

Our new Community Cancer Care Centre will ensure that the patient-centered, continuum-of-care approach to cancer management upon which St. Mary's Hospital Center has built a praiseworthy reputation serve the best interests of our patients, in an environment that is conducive to healing and the restoration of hope.