



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: March 27, 2009
Contact: Trudy Reid, CEO
613-772-2420 ext 6350
treid@wdmh.on.ca

The new Winchester District Memorial Hospital officially opened today

Jim Brownell, MPP for Stormont, Dundas, South Glengarry, Dr. Robert Cushman, CEO of the Champlain LHIN, Peter Sorby, Board Chair and Trudy Reid, Hospital CEO, officially opened the new Winchester District Memorial Hospital (WDMH) today.

“This is a dream come true for everyone at WDMH and the communities that we serve,” noted Peter Sorby, Hospital Board Chair. “We are grateful to the Minister of Health, Jim Brownell and the wonderful communities who have supported the hospital to make this new building a reality.”

“It was wonderful to be in Winchester to see the results of everyone’s efforts,” added MPP Brownell. “This is the latest development in our local healthcare renaissance. The community has worked together to build this beautiful new facility to provide the very best care close to home.”

Dr. Cushman agreed. “This vibrant rural hospital is an example of the kind of planning that can occur when multiple local and regional partners work together with specific communities. I would like to offer the LHIN's congratulations on this special day.”

About 120 invited guests gathered in the lobby of the new hospital to officially open the new building and unveil a commemorative plaque.

A highlight of the event was a presentation by Lyman (Bert) Armstrong, who works in Maintenance at the hospital. He provided his perspective on the new hospital and what it means to the communities it serves. Mr. Armstrong has worked at WDMH for 24 years. He, his wife and his two children were all born at the hospital.

The \$60 million expansion project includes new services and technologies to bring care closer to home. Innovations include a new Emergency Department, a state-of-the-art CT Scanner, digital mammography and other new technologies. Construction continues on existing buildings followed by demolition of older wings in 2010.

“Today is one of several events to mark this exciting new era for the Winchester District Memorial Hospital,” summed up CEO Trudy Reid. “To say thank you to the supportive communities who have helped to make this dream possible, a community Garden Party is being planned for Saturday, June 27.”