

## Our new Health-Care Complex and Walker Family Cancer Centre in St. Catharines

May, 2009

### Breaking ground for better health



The long-awaited groundbreaking for the Niagara Health System's (NHS) new health-care complex and Walker Family Cancer Centre took place on April 28, 2009 when Minister of Transportation and MPP for St. Catharines Jim Bradley joined hospital officials, community members, fundraising volunteers and health-care partners at the site for the official ceremony.

#### In This Issue

- Groundbreaking
- Thank you Niagara!
- Prepping the site for construction
- Design development
- Job creation
- A note from the CEO of Plenary Health



*Left to Right: Mayor of Thorold Henry D'Angela, Regional Chair Peter Partington, Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake Gary Burroughs, Mayor of St. Catharines Brian McMullan, Honourable Minister Jim Bradley, NHS Board Chair Betty-Lou Souter, NHS President & CEO Debbie Sevenpifer and Plenary Health CEO Mike Marasco*

Visit our website to view live action footage from the groundbreaking!

[nhs.plenaryprojects.com](http://nhs.plenaryprojects.com)

The ground was officially broken by *It's Our Time* fundraising campaign patient heroes on four excavators driven by operators from Walker Industries, Matt's Excavating, Rankin Construction and PCL Constructors.

The groundbreaking event was an opportune time for Plenary Health Niagara to be introduced by the Niagara Health System (NHS) as a corporate citizen in Niagara for at least the next three decades.

A partnership between Plenary Group and Borealis Infrastructure, Plenary Health Niagara features specialist health-care, construction, and finance personnel and has as its sole focus the delivery of the project on time and on budget and its successful physical operations over the next 34 years.

*Patient hero Gillian Norton prepares to climb the excavator provided by Walker Industries to officially break the ground on the new facility.*



*In the meantime, the shovels were polished up and ready to go for the official ceremonial photos.*

## **Thank you Niagara!**

*Left to right: Betty-Lou Souter Chair, NHS Board of Trustees, Debbie Sevenpifer, NHS President and CEO and Mike Marasco, Plenary Health CEO*



### **A note of thanks from the Board Chair and President & CEO of NHS**

We are elated to have finally broken ground on our new health-care facility which will replace two very outdated facilities in St. Catharines and bring new regional health-care services closer to home to benefit all Niagara residents. Some believed this day would never come, but as evidenced by the outpouring of community support at the groundbreaking, it has and for the first time in 50 years, a new acute-care facility is being built in Niagara.

We were honoured to have the opportunity to introduce Plenary Health Niagara as our partner and a new member of the Niagara community and wish to offer sincere thanks to them for hosting and funding the entire groundbreaking event.

In planning the event, we were thrilled to work with a dedicated group of people who believe in and support the work of the NHS. Gratitude is extended to the following suppliers and partners who provided us with preferential pricing, donations and a collaborative spirit, thus ensuring that this event will remain a memorable celebration for years to come:

- Niagara Tents and Events (venue)
- The Green House (floral design)
- Pick Ontario, Van Geest Bros. Limited, Meyers Flowers, Prins Grow Inc., Northend Gardens, Willy's Greenhouses, Northend Floral Inc., Pioneer Flower Farms and My Bouquet (flowers)
- Design Electronics (audiovisual services)
- Omni Media (professional editing and camera services)
- Niagara Regional Police Service
- St. Catharines Transit Commission (shuttle transportation)
- City of St. Catharines and Venest Industries (parking logistics)
- An Affair to Remember (food and beverage)
- Orchestrations Creative Event Management (event coordination)
- PCL (site grading and logistics)
- ADF Design Group (graphic design)
- Speedpro Imaging (printing)

Left to right:  
*It's Our Time*  
 Campaign heroes  
 Bill MacPhee,  
 Gillian Norton,  
 Elaine Davies and  
 Lydia Collins



Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank our *It's Our Time* Campaign heroes for officially breaking the ground of our new facility, along with operators from Walker Industries, Rankin Construction Inc. and Matt's Excavating.

Your courage and determination have been a beacon of hope for us all and we thank you for patiently waiting for the delivery of cancer, mental health, cardiac and expanded kidney dialysis services in our region.

In closing, to everyone who has supported the project along the journey, a very sincere and heartfelt thank you on behalf of the patients and families we serve. Together, we are embarking on this exciting project which will benefit all corners of Niagara.

## Prepping the site for construction

After the rain cleared, guests filed into St. Catharines Transit buses and the tent came down, the festivities of the NHS groundbreaking were complete, allowing PCL to mobilize in full force with its sights set on construction of the new 375-bed facility.

Within the week, PCL had erected a new project sign overlooking the ornamental fencing featuring the *It's Our Time* Campaign heroes, designating the property at First Street and Fourth Avenue as official construction territory.

The site is in the process of being appropriately secured by fencing and only authorized individuals are now able to enter the property; provided that work hats and safety shoes are worn, that is.



Since the groundbreaking ceremony, PCL crews have expediently been clearing the site, which has included the removal of topsoil for future re-use. The creation of temporary access roads and parking and lay-down areas for equipment is also included in getting the site ready for construction.

The finalization of site preparation will ensure the site is prepared for bulk excavation of the building's footprint in June and July, allowing the beginnings of the concrete structure to take shape in August 2009.

A necessary component of preparing the site for construction includes the dismantling of the farm house and barns which currently stand on the site.

“We have catalogued the home in photographs and will be salvaging some of the historical aspects of the structures for potential re-use in the new facility,” says Gloria Kain, NHS Chief Planning and Development Officer. “For example, the home has beautiful floor boards and unique features. We are pleased to bring some of that heritage with us into the new building.”



*Previous to the NHS purchasing the 40-acre parcel of land in 2004, the Blundell and Hunt families called the property at First Street Louth and Fourth Avenue home for nearly 140 years.*

The NHS has been approached by several businesses and individuals who have expressed interest in participating in the removal of the structures or in gaining historical artefacts. However, due to the fact that the majority of the structures are beyond their lifecycle use, as well as liability and insurance risks, this work will be carried out by contractors.

“PCL will salvage the items identified by NHS for use in the new facility and tender the demolition to contractors with the needed qualifications to conduct the work in a safe manner,” advises Donald Gordon, NHS Senior Project Manager. “Any materials salvaged by the demolition contractors will then be disposed of in accordance with the terms of our contract with Plenary Health Niagara.”

## Design development

While all of this activity is happening on site, plenty of work is still going on behind the scenes with our architects and user groups including staff, physicians and volunteers.



*Members of the user group planning the clinical functions of the Walker Family Cancer Centre, including representatives from NHS, Juravinski Cancer Centre and Cancer Care Ontario interact with our partners and architects.*

To date, over 300 individuals have contributed to the planning and design development of the new facility.

Over the spring and summer, these key clinical groups will continue providing invaluable input into the design development process; they will assist the architects in defining 1:100 scale floor plans of every level showing walls, partitions, doors and windows, in addition to a number of other variables.

# Job creation

The new health-care complex project will provide a sizeable boost to regional and Ontario economies during construction, with 1,000 workers on-site per day during the height of activities. Once the facility opens, approximately 200 new health-care jobs will be created to support the new regional services in cancer, cardiac and mental health care. In terms of a local construction work force, PCL intends to use local sub-trades extensively, with the majority of on-site labour going to tradespersons in the Golden Horseshoe area.



CONSTRUCTION LEADERS

“Firm commitments for portions of sub-contractor contracts have occurred during the proposal stage of the project,” says PCL Project Director, Ian Stewart. “The remainder of tendering activity for pre-qualified sub contractors will take place in early 2010.”

## A note from the CEO of Plenary Health



**Mike Marasco**

CEO, Plenary Health

At Plenary Health Niagara, our investment in the Niagara region extends beyond the design, construction and maintenance of the new NHS health-care complex and Walker Family Cancer Centre. The start of construction signifies the presence of our team as a corporate citizen in the Niagara region for at least the next three decades.

This community commitment extends beyond our own employees to the engagement of local labour and businesses in the delivery of this much-needed health-care facility. Collectively with our partners, our employees and their families will become part of the social fabric of the community for the next 34 years. The economic impact of the project for the Province of Ontario and the Region of Niagara is significant.

We look forward to providing the people of Niagara with a world-class facility for the delivery of acute health and cancer care and are committed to the long-term success of this partnership with the NHS for the betterment of health in the Niagara Region.



For more information on the new NHS health-care complex and Walker Family Cancer Centre, visit our project website at: <http://nhs.plenaryprojects.com>

Or contact:

**Liisa Morley**  
Coordinator, Project Communications  
Niagara Health System  
E-mail: [lmorley@niagarahealth.on.ca](mailto:lmorley@niagarahealth.on.ca)  
Phone: 905-378-4647 ext. 46542

*Together in Excellence – Leaders in Healthcare*



Photo credits: Dennis Cahill, Angie Humphries, Karen Winter and Liisa Morley