

Project Building Committee Report

ST. JOSEPH'S GENERAL HOSPITAL

Committee:	Project Building
Chair:	Al Astles, Board
Committee Members:	Greg Osborne, Board Barbara Price, Board Michael Pontus, Board Ron Philip, Board Eric Macdonald, Staff Barb Kinnon, Staff Lorne Antonsen, Staff

During the past fiscal year 2006/07 the Project Building committee met to select the Tender for the new Cancer Care Unit and review ongoing projects. Although St. Joseph's General Hospital experienced funding difficulties throughout the year, several Major projects were completed to enhance the level of care provided to residents of the Comox Valley and surrounding communities in the North Island.

The following summarizes the Major projects completed and ongoing:

Nuclear Medicine Unit The addition of a Nuclear Medicine Unit that incorporates the most advanced diagnostic imaging technology in Canada was officially opened on October 14, 2006. Usage of this \$1.36M state of the art facility, funded by a cost sharing agreement with the Vancouver Island Health Authority and Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District, has already surpassed expectations with patients now being scheduled on weekends.

Cancer Care Unit The Chemotherapy Department and the patients are delighted with their modern, expanded facilities in the Cancer Care Unit that officially opened on June 2, 2007. Reflecting the close relationship St. Joseph's Hospital enjoys with the community, the Korea Veterans Association generously donated the former smoking lounge and through a bequest of \$175,000 to the St. Joseph's General Hospital Foundation it was totally renovated. Donations from hundreds of service clubs, foundations and individuals provided the much needed equipment for the unit to operate effectively.

Operating Room Lighting In December 2006/January 2007 the most advanced LED lighting technology currently available was installed in our Operating Rooms as one of the first trial sites in Canada. All reports from nurses and surgeons indicate the quality of the lighting is much improved.

Emergency Room Renovations With the relocation of the Cancer Care Unit to the former smoking lounge, patient flow improvements are continuing with the expansion and renovation of the Emergency Room to enhance security and better facilitate patient care by restoring the clinical team concept.

Over the next fiscal year, we expect work to continue on the patient flow improvements in the out-patients area. As well, it is expected the initiative to relocate the mechanical room elements from the second and third floor to the roof and improvements to the parking situation will be further developed. In light of the announcement by VIHA earlier this year of their plan to construct a new regional hospital, it is anticipated the project building committee will become more involved in the development of a long range plan for use of the St. Joseph's General Hospital facility in its new role.

In conclusion, despite funding difficulties several major projects were completed this fiscal year that improved the level and type of care being provided at St. Josephs General Hospital. We are blessed with a highly professional and dedicated staff in all departments. Under the expert leadership and concern of Michael Pontus the hospital has implemented many innovative solutions to advance patient care throughout Vancouver Island such as telehealth and information technology. Eric Macdonald and Lorne Antonsen are commended for their resourcefulness and initiative in seeing projects through to completion in a highly satisfactory manner.

Respectfully submitted,



Al Astles
Chair