



A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, officially opening the new Bonnie and John Buhler Centre, was held on Monday, August 18th.

"This state-of-the-art department was designed to ensure we can provide our citizens with the best emergency care possible," said Health Minister Theresa Oswald. "This expanded emergency department means improved care for patients and their families, and a better work environment for our health-care professionals."



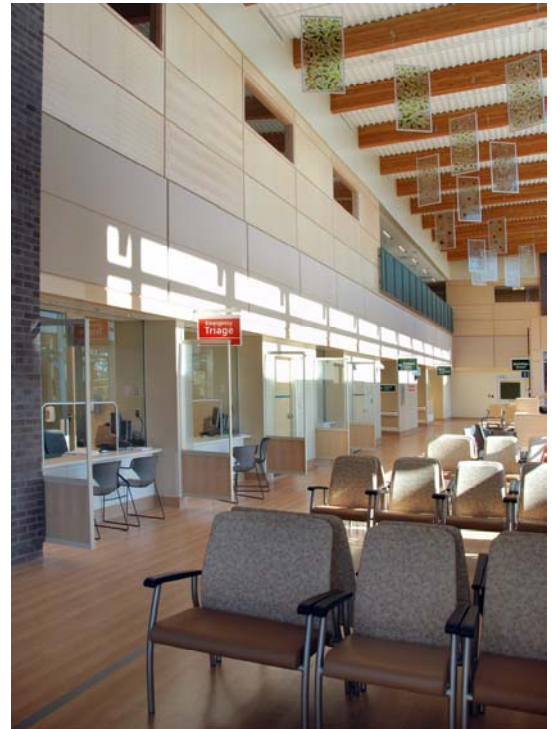
Official Ribbon Cutting

(l.—r.) Jan Currie; Stuart Greenfield; Jim Gauthier; John Buhler; Bonnie Buhler; Carrie Solmundson; Minister Oswald; Dr. Ricardo Lobato de Faria

Mr. Stuart Greenfield, Chair of the Board of Trustees said, "We extend sincere appreciation to the Government of Manitoba for their support and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority for their assistance in making this crucial innovative facility a reality. We are extremely grateful to John and Bonnie Buhler, as well as Jim Gauthier, Honourary Campaign Chair and his family, for their generous support and recognition of the need for a modern emergency department for the citizens of north Winnipeg." "I would also like to thank Dr. Ricardo Lobato de Faria, the ER Building Committee, and the entire ER staff team for their commitment and hard work, often under difficult conditions during this first phase of construction."

Phase 1 of New SOGH Emergency Department is Now Complete !

Ms. Carrie Solmundson, President and Chief Operating Officer said, "I extend sincere appreciation to our dedicated Emergency staff. To all of our staff and volunteers I extend a sincere thank you for continuing to deliver outstanding patient care."



Spacious and Bright Waiting Area

The Official Opening is just the first phase of the Expansion and Renewal Project. Phase 2 will now commence with the renewal of the former ER space, which when complete will include a six bed reassessment unit and the Cast Clinic.

Another element of the project is a technologically advanced Pharmacy, providing "to the minute patient medication". The new Pharmacy will be located in the vacant space in the Laboratory area and construction is presently underway.



Beautiful Glass Artwork hangs from the ceiling



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New Seven Oaks Emergency Department Opens Tomorrow

***Concordia ED redevelopment near completion;
Vic ED expansion to begin this fall***

Expanded, leading-edge emergency services at Seven Oaks General Hospital will significantly enhance care for patients and their families, Health Minister Theresa Oswald said today at the official opening of the hospital's new \$14-million emergency department.

"This state-of-the-art department was designed to ensure we can provide our citizens with the best emergency care possible," Oswald said. "This expanded emergency department means improved care for patients and their families, and a better work environment for our health-care professionals."

The redeveloped new department, which will welcome its first patients tomorrow, includes:

- more space – almost 20,000 square feet, double the current footprint of 9,700 square feet;
- more patient care spaces – a total of 31, nearly double the current 16 spaces;
- more monitored patient care spaces – 16 monitored up from the current six;
- three interior ambulance bays – up from the current two that require patients be disembarked from the ambulance indoors;
- a decontamination room – which can be utilized following a chemical spill or similar exposure – as well as an isolation room for patients suspected of suffering from an airborne illness such as SARS; and an electronic patient monitoring system that will allow staff to access patient information from various locations throughout the department.

The new emergency department will benefit the environment as much as it does its patients, Oswald said. The Seven Oaks ED is registered as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Commercial Interiors project. Water and energy use will be cut dramatically thanks to innovative green design elements including:

- an integrated water management strategy that will reuse water from the hospital's dialysis unit to supply water to flush toilets, cutting potable water use by 50 percent;
- solar walls on the south side of the ambulance garage to cut energy costs by pre-heating fresh air entering the ventilation system using passive solar energy during the winter months;
- a comprehensive day-lighting strategy to reduce energy demands on artificial light and provide natural light deep into the core of the ED.

The emergency department will feature more comfortable, private surroundings for patients and their families, with larger exam and treatment cubicles as well as a larger, more comfortable waiting room, and walls between patient cubicles.

The hospital's new Emergency Department Information System (EDIS) will automate functions such as triage, patient tracking, test results, room status, documentation and discharge. Fast, easy access to clinical information will improve patient flow through the departments.

"We extend sincere appreciation to the Government of Manitoba for their support and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority for their assistance in making this crucial innovative facility a reality," said Stuart Greenfield, chair of the Seven Oaks Hospital Board of Trustees. "We are extremely grateful to Jim Gauthier, honorary campaign chair and John and Bonnie Buhler for their generous support and recognition of the need for a modern emergency department for the citizens of north Winnipeg."

Oswald noted the opening of the new Seven Oaks emergency department comes just a few weeks after the completion of the first phase of the redevelopment of the emergency department at Concordia Hospital. Construction of the new Concordia ED will be completed and the facility opened to the public this fall. Construction of the Victoria General Hospital will begin by end of year.

"These new facilities, with their natural light and more comfortable patient and family areas will help our dedicated team of physicians, nurses and allied health professionals better meet the varying needs of our patients," said Jan Currie, WRHA vice-president and chief nursing officer.

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