



## The New Hospital Building Update

- The West Lincoln Memorial Hospital is a model small-community hospital, which ranks as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most efficient in Ontario. It has an exceptional reputation for its Maternal and Child Health / Obstetrics, palliative care and family medicine programs. Remarkably, this success has been achieved with an aging facility that costs the health system money and limits the services provided to the residents of the West Niagara region.
- Over the past months, we have seen that the approval process for the new building is arduous, at times unexplainable, and yet entirely typical of a new capital building project. The WLMH Hospital Board and senior management team remain committed to maintaining the high standard of quality health care at WLMH – and to building a new hospital for the current and future needs of residents in West Niagara and Lincoln.
- The Hospital has taken the step of hiring a Project Director to manage our building project through the design and construction stages. Robert Hofmann has a breadth of project management experience that bodes well for managing the WLMH build. He is a welcomed addition - fresh from opening the doors of the new Sudbury hospital, a project that he completed on budget and four weeks ahead of schedule.
- Currently, WLMH Board and senior management are working closely with the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and Ministry of Health and Long Term-Care officials on the approval of the hospital's new building project. Before we can move to the next stage and begin discussions with Infrastructure Ontario about the build schedule, the WLMH must satisfy the Ministry's plans for delivery of hospital services into the future. This process has been evolving with the LHIN's recently released Clinical Services Plan. In keeping stride with the evolving situation, the WLMH Board and management submitted building documents to the LHIN in mid-June and will be working towards Ministry of Health deadlines for August. We are confident we are moving forward with this significant project for our community.
- The Hospital Board recently announced the hiring of a new CEO for West Lincoln Memorial Hospital – Vickie Baird. The Board Chair stated: “We welcome our new CEO – with her commitment to the highest quality health care services; her understanding and enthusiasm working with hospital staff and volunteers; and her energy and experience for the hospital building project. Vickie Baird is a driven and determined person who has a demonstrated ability to get results – and we're pleased to have her in this leadership role, to move things forward at WLMH.”

- Most notably, Vickie Baird is an experienced, passionate and talented health care executive. Vickie held various managerial and executive positions at Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Peter's Hospital. She oversaw the planning and construction of many capital projects including areas of the Hamilton General Hospital, St. Peter's Residence at Chedoke and the Alexander Pavilion at St. Peter's Hospital. She is now working along side our Project Director Robert Hofmann and we look forward to reporting back to the community on our continued progress towards the building of a new West Lincoln Memorial Hospital.
- Community support remains critical to our success. With today's funding realities, there is a significant need for on-going financial support to ensure our hospital has the proper materials and state-of-the-art medical equipment. The WLMH Foundation continues to raise these necessary funds. The province does not pay for any equipment costs: 100% of the costs for equipment (from hospital beds to monitoring and diagnostic equipment) must be raised locally. The Foundation's donations go directly to support the care we have come to know and expect from our WLMH, whether it is funding the \$3.6 *Project X-ray* capital campaign or purchasing equipment and materials on the *WLMH's Annual Wish List*. These important investments help to maintain our health care services today and will be transferred to new facility in the future.
- The Boards of the Hospital and Foundation are committed to communicating regularly with our communities about the hospital's operations, the new building and our progress raising the necessary funds for capital equipment.

*For more information, visit the WLMH website ([www.wlmh.on.ca](http://www.wlmh.on.ca)) or the WLMH Foundation website ([www.wlmhfoundation.ca](http://www.wlmhfoundation.ca)).*