

Engenuity Magazine

November 2007

## **Upper River Valley Hospital – New Brunswick’s state-of-the-art health care facility**

WATERVILLE, NEW BRUNSWICK – The new \$85 million Upper River Valley Hospital in Waterville opened its doors in November of this year, offering new and enhanced patient services and the latest in technology and equipment, all in an environmentally-friendly building.

“The Upper River Valley Hospital is the largest capital building project to be undertaken in New Brunswick in recent years,” said Supply and Services Minister Roly MacIntyre. “It is the most modern health care facility in our province and is quickly becoming the envy of other health care institutions throughout the region.”

Built on 70 acres in Carleton County, the new hospital is constructed in three levels and is divided into four wings, covering approximately 190,000 square feet. It opened to the public in mid-November with 50 beds and a capacity to accommodate 20 more.

“This state-of-the-art facility will greatly improve the health care services available to area residents,” said Health Minister Michael Murphy. “The new hospital has enhanced existing services and offers a range of new services which were never before available. This means that most essential health care services will be available within the upper river valley, reducing the need for patients to travel to larger centres in the province such as Fredericton or Saint John.”

The Upper River Valley Hospital has a surgical suite with three operating rooms, as well as an endoscopy room. There are three labour/delivery rooms and eight private postpartum bedrooms, two in-patient units including a 31-bed unit designed for obstetrics, surgical and medical patients, and a 39-bed unit designated for medical, palliative and pediatric patients. There are five beds in this unit for concentrated care.

In the outpatient and emergency areas, there are 10 critical care rooms, six observation rooms, two trauma rooms, two isolation rooms, two rooms for medical procedures and two ambulance bays. A new intern residence is directly linked to the new hospital at the west side of the emergency department.

In addition to current patient services offered in the region, including ophthalmology, the Upper River Valley Hospital also provides new and enhanced services such as echocardiography, bone densitometry, MRI (mobile), psychology and satellite renal dialysis.

Construction began in 2005 after Supply and Services negotiated a development agreement with ADI Group Inc. of Fredericton to design and manage the building of the new hospital. This construction coincided with the provincial Department of Transportation's building of a new four-lane Trans Canada Highway through the valley that provides direct access to the hospital.

(Insert quote from Hollis Cole)

One of the most striking architectural features of the new hospital is a two-storey natural sunlit atrium at the front of the building. A two-storey, glass walled public passageway connects the atrium lobby and the emergency arrival areas. This wall provides extensive natural light to internal spaces and provides occupants with a spectacular view of the surrounding rural landscape.

From the outside, the reflective glass provides a mirror image of the site and the valley. The exterior of the building includes light weight metal clad panel systems, brick and other masonry components at entry points and along faces. This exterior treatment provides flexibility and visual variety. The use of earth-tone colours on the building exterior creates a dynamic modern image, reflecting the agricultural nature of western New Brunswick.

“We have been working with ADI to have the hospital achieve a silver designation for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), a nationally recognized rating system for green building performance,” Minister MacIntyre said. “We’re very proud of our efforts in this regard and look forward to having the hospital receive this designation from the Canada Green Building Council in the very near future.”

Supply and Services has made green infrastructure a key element of its capital construction program. Green buildings are well-insulated, use less energy and water, generate less greenhouse gases, use materials wisely and produce less waste. They cost less to operate and are built with employee comfort, energy savings and the environment in mind. Occupants are more comfortable in green buildings with their excellent ventilation, thermal comfort and abundant natural light.

The Upper River Valley Hospital was designed and built using these LEED strategies. Construction involved using locally-produced materials, making optimal use of rain water and natural light and designing the landscape specifically for the natural environment. The building is efficient in energy use and water consumption and includes the best in modern ventilation systems. As well, there are open green spaces around the hospital, including a walking trail and “healing” garden on the hospital grounds. Inside, the hospital operates a “green housekeeping program” to reduce waste and promote the procurement and use of environmentally-friendly, recyclable products in the building.

“The Upper River Valley Hospital has been a tremendous project built in two years in partnership with ADI and the River Valley Health Authority,” MacIntyre noted. “Combined with the new services, and the level of technology and equipment it provides, it is a first class health care facility for both patients and staff.”

A virtual tour of the facility is available at [www.rivervalleyhealth.nb.ca](http://www.rivervalleyhealth.nb.ca)

Media contact: Judy Cole, communications officer, Department of Supply and Services, 506-457-7903.