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CAMH Connexions Special Edition September 2006

CAMH Connexions

Updated September 29, 2006 5:25 PM



CAMH: Transforming Care Through Redevelopment

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- [Support for CAMH's redevelopment](#)

How can buildings affect the recovery of a person dealing with mental health or addiction issues? The redevelopment of CAMH's Queen Street site will replace an institution with a new mixed-use urban village that will integrate client care into the fabric of a revitalized community. Our new state-of-the-art facilities and healing environment will allow us to introduce an integrated model of care that will improve treatment and aid recovery.

CAMH is pleased to announce that it is beginning the first phase of the multi-year, multi-phased redevelopment of its Queen Street site on October 5, 2006. Work will begin on three Alternate Milieu (AM) buildings for the care and recovery of clients in a more home-like setting, and a related administrative and ambulatory patient care building. These four new buildings are scheduled to house both CAMH's Addictions and Mood and Anxiety Programs beginning in December 2007.

These first steps on the journey to a new CAMH will prove a valuable resource in health care for our community, as well as better integrate our site into our neighbourhood and make it more welcoming for all concerned.

Janine Robb, Administrative Director of the Mood and Anxiety and Women's programs, says, "We view recovery as more than merely the cessation or reduction of symptoms but rather the development of healthy living, coping and problem-solving strategies. Recovery occurs when people with mental illnesses or addictions discover or rediscover strengths and abilities for pursuing personal goals, and develop a sense of identity that

allows them to grow beyond their illness.”

CAMH’s commitment to developing healthy living extends beyond our site into our community, and as such, our redevelopment vision is to:

Create a hub for collaboration and interaction

The Queen Street site will be the centre of the new CAMH, integrating client care, research, health promotion, prevention, and education. The hub – a people-centred place that supports CAMH’s philosophy of client-centred care – will become the heart of an urban village. Evidence shows that people with mental illnesses and addiction respond best to treatment in “normalized” home-like and familiar environments.

Dr. Paul Garfinkel, President and CEO of CAMH, believes that the new site will “support client dignity, recovery and transition back into the community, while integrating the best in clinical care, research, teaching, health promotion and policy at one site.”

Redefine the site’s image and remove the stigma

The site will be an urban village composed of facilities, sidewalks, new shops and green spaces that physically integrate it with the surrounding neighbourhood by extending existing streets to create new city blocks. This will create a safe, comfortable and welcoming setting for client care in which the institutional stigma long associated with the property is eliminated.

CAMH Executive Vice President of Programs and Chief of Nursing Practice and Professional Services Judith Tompkins says, “When we talk about creating an urban village on the CAMH site, we’re talking about trying to establish an even greater fit with the community – a flow between hospital and community, in a way that says to clients, ‘Yes, you may have a mental illness or an addiction, but that, too, can be part of life, like a physical illness. It shouldn’t mean that you suddenly are cut off or set apart from the community.’”

Make the site green and inviting to the public

The existing landscape is a significant resource that will play an important role in creating a high-quality, client-centred environment within a shared community setting. The landscape will have many functions, from providing healing spaces for clients, to making the site inviting to the surrounding community to use. The goal is to create a truly healthy and healing environment that is much more than a hospital campus.

According to Janine Robb, “Rather than being illness-oriented and focussing only on treatment and the medical part, we’re emphasizing a recovery base. It’s a complete cultural shift in care.”

After many years of planning, we’re set to change and grow during Phase 1a of redevelopment. We’re improving care and CAMH is delighted to share the benefits of our transformation with the community.

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Connexions - Queen Street Redevelopment Highlights September 2006

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West Wing driveway: will be maintained as emergency access and as a route to the West Wing building.

Tennis courts: will become unavailable, as the area will be needed for construction trailers and equipment.

Sunshine Garden: Plantings at the new Sunshine Garden location, established on the southwest part of the property, will be harvested and the ground prepared for the next season. Community sales of the organic produce will continue.

“Fennings Park”: This is a future public park, to be located at the northwest corner of the site and it will be donated to the City by CAMH after the construction of the Phase 1A buildings. It will not be accessible until the construction of Phase 1A has been completed, but the park area in front of the tennis courts and the large green space at the corner of Queen and Shaw streets will remain accessible to the public.

The Heritage wall: Work on repairing and conserving this valuable historical artifact – created by patients of the original ‘lunatic asylum’ located on this site – will commence with the West wall.

Trees: Where possible, old growth trees in the construction area will be protected; in addition, 55 new trees will be planted to replace those that must be removed to begin work.

Construction fences going up: The fencing will be erected at the northwest corner of the property and extend across the front of the grounds facing Queen Street, and continue south just east of the extension of Fennings Street. The fencing will include displays of client art and achievements as well as information about CAMH and the redevelopment project. For the curious among us, the fence will offer plenty of opportunities to take a peek at the construction activities on-site.

Redevelopment timeline:

- **Groundbreaking:** October 5, 2006
- **Excavation Complete:** November 2006
- **Foundations and Footings:** January 2007
- **Enclosure:** Summer 2007
- **Occupancy:** January 2008

Communicating with the Redevelopment team:

If you have any questions, please leave a message at 416-535-8501 ext. 3330 or e-mail: redvelopment_feedback@camh.net

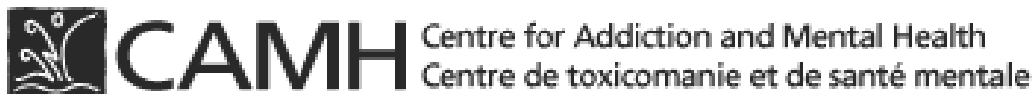
Architects: CAMH has been working with an award-winning team of architects on the development of the Facilities Master Plan and design of the new inpatient units. The team, known as community careconsortium (C3), is composed of three Toronto architectural firms: Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects, Montgomery Sisam Architects Inc., and Kearns Mancini Architects Inc.



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Unprecedented support from community leaders for CAMH's redevelopment

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CAMH receives two gifts of \$5 million, the largest in its history

Over the years, mental illness and addiction have not attracted the same level of philanthropic support as many other comparable causes – largely because of the associated stigma. But recent gifts to the CAMH Foundation signal a dramatic change in this trend.

Arthur and Sonia Labatt, and the Beamish Family (through the WB Family Foundation), have each given \$5 million – the largest gifts in CAMH's history.

The gifts will help to transform CAMH's Queen Street site into a hospital for the 21st century. Dr. Paul Garfinkel, CAMH's President and CEO, said the redevelopment plans “are plans not to build new buildings, but to allow us to provide better care, to change attitudes, reduce stigma and transform our society into one that cares deeply about all human struggles and conditions.”

Both the Beamish and Labatt families have long histories of giving to many different charities. Why have they chosen to honour CAMH with such generous gifts?



“CAMH, a leader in its specialized field, is an organization in which Toronto, Ontario and Canada can take great pride,” said Arthur Labatt, pictured with his wife Sonia, at a reception to acknowledge their generosity, held last fall.

For Arthur and Sonia Labatt, CAMH’s excellence in research, treatment, education and health promotion matched their decision to focus their charitable giving on Canadian institutions that are world leaders.

“CAMH is already providing world-class clinical care and research, and when the project is complete it will have facilities to match,” said Arthur Labatt. “This will allow CAMH to attract and retain the very best people right here in Toronto.”



“CAMH, a leader in its specialized field, is an organization in which Toronto, Ontario and Canada can take great pride,” said Arthur Labatt, pictured with his wife Sonia, at a reception to acknowledge their generosity, held last fall.

For the Beamish family, it was recognition of the need to take leadership, and support a highly deserving and effective organization – yet one that, according to Heather Beamish, remains a “hard sell” because of stigma. “There’s no cute little kid on a billboard asking you to support CAMH,” she said.

Such definitive leadership support from prominent community members powerfully attests to the changing views of society towards mental health and addiction. It also shows the support from the community for CAMH’s vision.

With these and other gifts – and those to come – we will be able to continue to transform not only the landscape at our Queen Street site, but the lives of our clients and the way the world views mental illness and addiction.

[Support CAMH - Donate online now!](#)

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