

Lakeshore General Hospital opens new intensive care units



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Carlos J. Leitao left, Member for Robert-Baldwin, Quebec Liberal Party Minister of Finance gets a rundown of the new intensive care units at the Lakeshore General Hospital in Pointe Claire from ICU chief, Dr. Robert Salasidis right, as David Cescon Co-Chair of the LGH foundation looks on. *PETER MCCABE / MONTREAL GAZETTE*

Dr. Robert Salasidis and head ICU nurse Sophie Caron beamed as they pointed out the various state-of-the-art features in one of four new intensive care units at the Lakeshore General Hospital, Monday. The room was bright, spacious and spotless.

“You need room to circulate around the patient and to be able to bring in necessary equipment,” Caron said. “When a patient isn’t doing well, you need a lot of machines.”

“Look at the lighting over the bed,” Salasidis said pointing to the ceiling light fixture which flooded the room with bright light. “Lighting is so important. When you are bending over and treating a patient, you don’t want to be working blind.”

With the addition of the four new units the hospital now has 15 ICU rooms. It is estimated the four units could save as many as 265 lives over the next year.

Elderly patients were already being treated in two of the four units, Monday.

The West Island has a growing seniors population and with that reality comes more complex health issues.

“More than 50 per cent of the patients in intensive care are 75 years old and older,” Lakeshore General Foundation managing director Heather Holmes said.

The foundation is financing the \$5 million project through private donations. Lorne Trottier and Louise Rouselle-Trottier of the Trottier Family Foundation donated \$2 million to the project which will be completed in two phases.

The Trottier Family Foundation has been a generous benefactor to the hospital. In 2013, it gave \$10 million to the hospital — the largest single donation in the hospital's history.

The hospital received \$2 million from the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services to cover the operational costs of the new units.

The Trotters attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, along with West Island health network director Benoit Morin; Quebec finance minister and MNA for the West Island riding of Baldwin-Cartier Carlos Leitão; MNA for Jacques-Cartier Geoffrey Kelley and Pointe-Claire Mayor Morris Trudeau.

What pleased both Salasidis and Caron is that doctors, nurses and other medical specialists working on the front line of intensive-care medicine collaborated directly with the architect from the beginning of the process to come up with a functional design.

Salasidis said patients who arrive in ICU are often suffering from pneumonia, serious infections or heart problems and need immediate care. The expansion of the ICU means they can be relocated more quickly from the emergency ward which is often overcrowded this time of year.

In each room, basic equipment is attached to two posts suspended from the ceiling and flanking the hospital bed. There are no electrical wires plugged into walls for medical staff to trip over as they circulate. The dialysis machine is installed in the wall to free up floor space. Everything is about keeping clutter to a minimum.

“We love the extra deep sink with touch-activated faucet,” Caron said. “And you will notice there is no counter attached. That helps prevent contamination.”

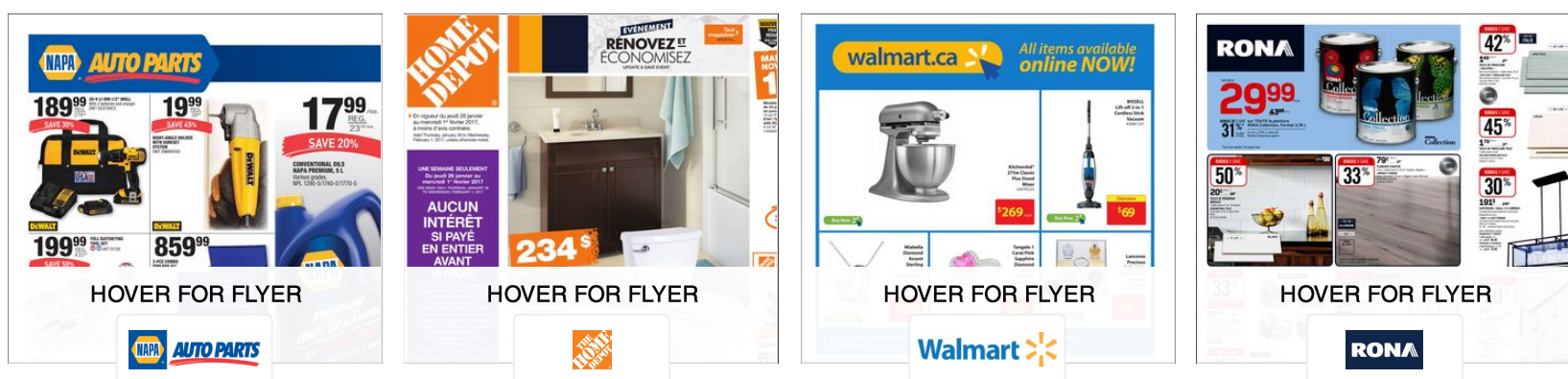
Caron said the number of in-unit storage compartments was also reduced. If supplies are left forgotten in a cupboard, they expire and end up in the garbage.

“We are very proud of the design,” Caron said.

Phase 2 of the project will see the 11 other units given an overhaul and the hospital's eight cardiology beds moved to the ICU floor. Work should be completed by the Fall, 2017.

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