
NEWS RELEASE

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Rotary Manor officially welcomes South Peace seniors

Peace River-South MLA Blair Lekstrom, Northern Health and Peace River Regional Hospital District representatives were on hand today to officially open the expanded Rotary Manor, benefitting seniors in Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe and the surrounding area who need 24 hour a day nursing care and health services.

"The expansion at Rotary Manor is a milestone for seniors care in the Peace River South region," said Peace River South MLA Blair Lekstrom. "This is a great example of what can be accomplished when members of the community, the health authority, local and provincial governments come together and I am proud of the work that has been done to allow seniors the opportunity to remain in their community as they age, surrounded by their families and friends."

The Government of British Columbia, Northern Health and the Peace River Regional Hospital District are partners in the Rotary expansion project, which added 71 residential care beds to the facility. The expanded facility is now home to a total of 115 residents, following the replacement of the outdated Pouce Coupe Care Home with state of the art programming and facilities at Rotary Manor.

Funding for the \$22.7 million Rotary expansion project came from:

- the Government of British Columbia - \$11.4 million;
- Northern Health - \$1.1 million; and
- the Peace River Regional Hospital District - \$10.2 million

The project was originally scheduled for completion in the fall of 2008. Weather-related construction challenges through two harsh winters contributed to a delay in completion to the fall of 2009.

A separate \$7 million project at Rotary Manor funded through NH's capital allocation from the B.C. Government added 26 assisted living units for area seniors who can live independently with some extra support.

These two major projects represent a great improvement to the quality of life for South Peace seniors," said Peace River Regional Hospital District Chair Karen Goodings. "The expansion of Rotary Manor and the assisted living unit additions are an enhancement of the range of services available to seniors throughout the Peace region."

The 71 new beds at the expanded Rotary Manor meet up-to-date standards for the highest level of residential care for seniors needing around-the-clock nursing care in a home-like environment. The expansion includes full wheelchair accessibility, appropriate space for clients and caregivers, and the ability to include patient lifts and support devices.

The expansion also features two beds dedicated to palliative care, and two new respite care beds for patients who only need a short-term stay to support caregiver relief. The South Peace Hospice Palliative Care Society donated funds to decorate and equip the palliative care rooms, along with an inter-faith room available for residents and families to enjoy quiet reflection time.

“We were pleased to have the opportunity to help furnish these rooms in partnership with local Rotary Clubs, and with support of donations from the community”, said Marilyn Alexander, chair of the South Peace Hospice Palliative Care Society. “We have long recognized the need for palliative care beds in our community, a need that has been acknowledged, and supported by Northern Health and South Peace residents.”

The assisted living addition on the Rotary Manor site provides 26 units under Independent Living BC, a housing-for-health program where tenants pay 70 per cent of their after-tax income for their units. They receive two meals a day, weekly housekeeping and linen services, 24-hour emergency response, personal care services and recreational and social opportunities. Assisted living apartments add to the current range of housing and care options available to seniors by providing a middle option between home support and residential care.

From June 2001 to September 2009, the Province has opened 6,314 net-new beds and units and built 13,623 new and replacement beds and units as part of government’s commitment to build 5,000 net-new beds and units by the end of 2008.

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