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UPGRADES IMPROVE CARE SERVICES FOR GULF ISLAND RESIDENTS

Salt Spring Island – Significant upgrades to Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital will improve access to services and allow medical professionals to deliver a higher quality and range of care to Gulf Islands patients.

“This is an exciting and important upgrade in health services for all residents of the Gulf Islands,” said Murray Coell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands. “The improvements at Lady Minto Hospital directly respond to the growing and aging population in the Gulf Islands.”

The \$3 million renovations feature a spacious, state-of-the-art operating room, which is nearly 1,700 square feet larger than its predecessor. A new 880-square-foot post-anaesthetic recovery room has also been created, as well as a private, home-like palliative care suite, which will allow those nearing the end of their life and their families a private, peaceful location with professional 24-hour care. In addition to the new construction, high-tech computerized radiology equipment has been purchased with funds raised by community members on Salt Spring Island.

“Lady Minto Hospital plays an important role within the network of care delivered by the Vancouver Island Health Authority, and we are very pleased with the renovation results,” said Glen Lowther, VIHA Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. “We recognize that without the commitment of the Foundation and the community, these upgrades would not have been possible. The changes mean improved local care for those who need surgical, acute recovery and palliative services, and modern working environment for our clinical staff.”

Salt Spring Island’s original hospital was built in 1914, and then rebuilt at the present Crofton Road site in 1958. Since 1991, the population in the Gulf Islands has increased significantly, and the number of residents on Salt Spring has increased by 40 per cent alone. A significant proportion of that growth is among the senior population demographic.

“The Capital Regional Health District is proud to be a funder of this important project,” said Ted Daly, Chair, Health Facilities Planning Committee, Capital Regional District. “Enhanced facilities will help residents of the Gulf Islands access important health care services closer to where they live.”

Detailed planning for the renovations at Lady Minto Hospital began in 2002. Construction began in September 2003. The project is funded by the Capital Regional Hospital District, the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation and the Vancouver Island Health Authority (Ministry of Health).

“This project has truly been a community partnership,” said Wendy Shea, President, Lady Minto Hospital Foundation. “The Foundation is grateful for the support and commitment of Island residents to our local hospital and to the recent upgrades.”

Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital has a 24-hour emergency department and offers services in medicine, surgery and obstetrics, as well as psychiatry, palliative care, cancer treatment, diagnostic Laboratory and X-ray services, an out-patient diabetes clinic and nutritional counseling. It is also home to 31 extended care residents.

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