

Upgrading NRGH

Hospital has numerous renovation projects

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Vision
Nanaimo

The banging of many hammers can be heard in the hallways at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital these days.

A new maternity wing opened up at the hospital last August, other areas are currently being renovated and future expansions are also planned to improve the quality and level of service the hospital provides for central Island patients.

Jim Morris, senior project manager for the Vancouver Island Health Authority, said the new \$16-million maternity facility is built on the second floor of a new addition that took a couple of years to build.

Besides the 15 labour/birth/recovery/post-partum rooms, the wing has an intensive care nursery that will allow for a higher degree of care at NRGH.

On the main floor of the new wing, while just a shelled in hull at the moment, plans are in the works to construct a new \$13-million dialysis centre, allowing kidney patients to have their treatments closer to home.



“Most of them now have to go to Victoria or Vancouver for their hemodialysis,” said Morris.

Two renovation projects are ongoing.

A \$3-million renovation to the 12-bed palliative care ward is expected to be finished next September.

“The goal there is to de-institutionalize that space, make it much more of a home-like setting with private rooms and family space,” said Morris.

The second project is the creation of a Children’s

Ambulatory Health Care Centre.

Funded by Child Health B.C., the \$2-million pediatric ambulatory health care unit will house a variety of diagnostic and treatment clinics for children and youth.

Specialists in areas such as cardiology, neurology and diabetes will come over from Vancouver and elsewhere to provide one-day clinics so families do not have to travel.

Health officials also have big plans for NRGH’s emergency wing. The current department is undergoing some small renovations to improve the existing space. Morris said they are also in the process of designing a large new wing, which will expand out to the emergency parking lot and include a large psychiatric emergency services unit.

Morris said all of the work being done at NRGH illustrates VIHA’s commitment to investing in the hospital as a true regional hospital and centre of health excellence.

“That’s so important for recruiting physicians and retaining quality staff,” he said.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Diversity inspires InSight’s new Nanaimo communities

Nanaimo’s recent growth is stimulating demand for different housing choices to reflect the increasing diversity of its residents. One local developer is working to address that issue by creating a series of communities to suit a wider variety of lifestyles, from students and young professionals to empty nesters and retirees.

Nanaimo-based InSight Developments has been in business for over thirteen years, initially designing and developing the 50-acre master-planned adult community of Longwood.

Having garnered national praise for its various phases, including Best Multi-Family Development in Canada from the Canadian Home Builders’ Association, InSight has branched out into other types of lifestyle-based residences and communities.

For families, Hawthorne is one of the most interesting new neighbourhoods in Nanaimo – 230 home sites set amid 56 acres offering majestic views of Mount Benson. Purchasers have a choice of builders and house plans, or can custom design their own dream home.

Winding pathways throughout Hawthorne connect to the Trans Canada Trail and Buttertubs Marsh, an unspoiled four-acre nature sanctuary next door.

On the edge of this family-oriented community, at the corner of Wakesiah and Jingle Pot Road, sits Hawthorne Corner, an enclave of 80 ultra-modern one bedroom suites and one bedroom plus den lofts. With the convenience of street level shops and services and Malaspina University-College across the way, it’s a perfect location for students



and young professionals. Urban style in a country village setting.

By far InSight’s most exciting project is SeaWalk, a sleek 24-storey boutique waterfront tower perched atop Front Street overlooking the city’s downtown harbour. Slated for completion in 2010, SeaWalk represents a welcome addition to Nanaimo’s waterfront as well as exceptional value for anyone wanting the excitement and prestige of living by the water without a Coal Harbour price tag.

“Nanaimo is changing – perhaps more than any other mid-sized city

in B.C.,” says InSight’s President Doug Bromage. “With all our urban amenities, combined with our University town status and the new conference center, we’re attracting a new wave of businesses and residents. Nanaimo is well on its way to becoming the province’s next great city. And we’re proud to play a part in what it can become by creating a variety of home choices that will appeal to all kinds of different people.”

For more information on InSight and its communities, please visit www.insightdevelopments.ca.