



Frequently Asked Questions

Since early-2018 RVH has been listening carefully to stakeholders about its plans to utilize space in its north (Georgian Drive) campus, while planning for a south campus. Below are some frequently asked questions.

What is *Plan Our Future. Together.* ?

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) is imagining an exciting future for healthcare in our region. We have launched a long-range planning exercise which includes determining how to best use the space still available within our current Georgian Drive facility, as well as planning for a state-of-the-art satellite campus to meet evolving healthcare needs in rapidly-growing south Barrie, Innisfil and Bradford West Gwillimbury.

The initiative is called *Plan our Future. Together.* and it requires comprehensive engagement with our staff, physicians, volunteers, patients, community partners and the public.

Why is it happening?

RVH opened an expansion that doubled its size in 2012 but since then our volumes have continued to grow rapidly. On most days every bed is full. In fact medical/surgical occupancy rate at RVH is consistently over 115 per cent. Additionally, RVH's current 40-acre site on Georgian Drive is almost fully utilized. If RVH is going to meet the healthcare needs of our region in the future, especially in rapidly-growing Innisfil and south Barrie, we *must* begin planning now, recognizing that planning and building an another facility is a 10 to 20 year process.

How long will it take?

Charting RVH's course for the future will be a complex and lengthy process taking 10 to 20 years. But good planning takes time. We are developing a plan that takes a graduated approach to developing a state-of-the-art facility and providing services that meet the needs of our region for the next 20 years and beyond.

Redevelopment is a multi-year process for Ontario hospitals, requiring approvals from our Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Before approvals are given, the provincial government requires hospitals to undertake comprehensive Master Programming and Master Planning. Those two planning studies will involve in-depth exploration of the needs of the region, the services RVH should provide in the future, and infrastructure planning. For more information regarding the Ministry's process, please go to Process & Progress page of our website www.rvhplanourfuture.ca.

Why are you considering a “graduated model”. Why not just build a full acute hospital in south Simcoe?

We believe a graduated approach to developing a south campus will allow RVH to bring services closer to home, *faster*. Planning and building a healthcare facility is a lengthy and complex process. As technology evolves and government priorities shift, getting approvals for a full-fledged hospital with a 24-hour emergency department and inpatient units may be challenging. However, many hospitals in the province are being approved for ambulatory care centres. RVH believes the preliminary phase in the graduated model to develop an ambulatory care centre within the next 10 years will bring services to south Simcoe sooner. We could then begin to incorporate some inpatient units that are not dependent on an emergency department (such as seniors care or a birthing centre) within 20 years. All with an eye to expanding services to include a full emergency department, critical care and operating rooms as a more long-range plan in the next 20+ years.

South Simcoe has healthcare gaps now. Why does it take so long to build a health facility?

Charting RVH's course for the future – including a graduated plan to build a south campus as well as planning for space with RVH's current facility – will be a complex and lengthy process that will take 10 to 20 years and follows the five stage capital planning process required by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC).

Many hospitals in the province are being approved for ambulatory care centres, so we are strategically planning to develop an ambulatory care centre in the next 10 years to bring services to south Simcoe *sooner* and put roots in the ground. This will likely include an extended-hours urgent care clinic and outpatient services. Within 20 years, we could then begin to incorporate some inpatient units that are not dependent on an emergency department (such as seniors care or birthing centre). All with an eye to expanding services to include a full emergency department, critical care and operating rooms as a more long-range plan in the next 20+ years.

What's the difference between an ambulatory care centre and a full hospital? And urgent care versus emergency department?

Ambulatory care centres focus on patients that need care from specialized and interdisciplinary teams without requiring an inpatient stay. The ambulatory care centre would function similar to specialty clinics, providing procedures and follow-up care all during daytime hours. A hospital is characterized by having inpatient beds and access to an emergency department (ED).

Appointments are not required to receive care at an ED or urgent care center, but they prioritize care differently. Urgent care centres are generally accessible during daytime hours, some even have extended hours (up to 23 hours per day), and patients are generally seen on a first-come, first-serve basis. Urgent care centres can help patients whose health needs immediate attention and cannot wait to be seen by their family physician; they are capable of treating many minor injuries and illnesses, as well as some serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Depending on the severity of the injury and limitations of the clinic, patients may be transferred to a local emergency department for further treatment.

An emergency department is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week, and systematically prioritize care based severity of a patient's condition—this is known as triage. EDs are capable of treating with a broad range of injuries and ailments, but notably life-threatening conditions, such as heart attack or major trauma, with access to specialized treatment options, operating theatres, etc.

What are you doing *now* to address unmet healthcare needs?

To meet short-term healthcare needs in south Barrie and Innisfil, RVH is partnering with the Town of Innisfil to lease space and provide outpatient services in the municipality's new 445,000 sq. ft. Rizzardo Health and Wellness Centre at Yonge Street and Innisfil Beach Road (next to the Innisfil Recreation Complex), which is scheduled to open in early-2019.

It will include a walk-in clinic, imaging and laboratory services, physiotherapy and mental health services. RVH will develop 5,000 sq. ft. in the health centre and plans to offer outpatient clinics for chronic diseases (e.g. COPD and diabetes); child and youth treatment clinics (e.g. well-baby follow-up, asthma clinic and speech services), as well as the potential for cardiac, cancer and pre-surgical consultation.

Where will the new south campus be built? How are you choosing the location?

We first considered what would be timely access to health services. Part of our early planning involved looking at drive times and who currently lives within a 15-minute drive of a hospital. When we mapped it out, there was a notable area of south Barrie, Innisfil and north Bradford West Gwillimbury that were outside of that 15-minute drive time. With careful consideration for nearby hospitals catchment areas and Local Hospital Integration Network (LHIN) boundaries, we set our preliminary site search area west of Lake Simcoe, east of Highway 400, south of Kempenfelt Bay and south to the 14th line of Innisfil (just south of Highway 89).

In 2009 the Cortel Group donated 50 acres of land in Innisfil (at Yonge Street and the 6th line) to develop a satellite health facility. While RVH is grateful for that generous gift, RVH has not pre-determined where the south campus will be located or what services it will offer. All potential sites within the site search area will be subject to the same clear and detailed criteria, consultation and analysis. This may be a potential site, but another site might be better. A transparent process and broad consultation will tell us that.

Our next step is to carefully consider existing and planned population growth, transportation networks, natural heritage system (streams, wetlands, watersheds, forest lots, etc.), and rural and agricultural areas to determine what areas are actually developable. Our Site Selection Committee, which includes two community representatives, are working with technical expert consultants to execute a very transparent, fair and consultative process for selecting a site. Based on very clear, detailed and weighted mandatory and desirable criteria, along with broad community engagement, the committee will recommend a minimum of two preferred sites to the Board's Capital Planning Committee.

Why not just build it on the land donated to RVH?

While RVH is very grateful for the generous donation of 50 acres of land in Innisfil (at Yonge Street and the 6th line), RVH has not pre-determined where the south campus will be located or what services it will offer. The donated land may be a potential site, but another site might be better. The cost of land is minor in comparison to the expense of building a new facility or its annual operating budget; because it is a small portion of the overall amount, cost of land alone will not be a determining factor when putting forward the final two recommended sites. All potential sites within the site search area will be subject to the same clear and detailed criteria, consultation and analysis. A transparent process and broad consultation will tell us which one to choose.

What will happen to the existing facilities?

RVH's current 40-acre site on Georgian Drive is almost fully utilized. In addition to building a south campus, our long-range planning exercise will also explore how we can best utilize the space within RVH's existing facility ("north campus"), including development of the "shelled units" that were built as part of the expansion in 2012. The planning process will not only determine *where* we provide care, but will redefine *how* we provide care—maximizing technology to support a "hospital of the future", while maintaining the highest safety and quality standards.

RVH is a relatively new hospital (opened in 1997 and expanded in 2012). Why do you need to build a south campus?

On most days every bed in our health centre is full and RVH's current 40-acre site on Georgian Drive is almost fully utilized. That's why just five years after opening an expansion that doubled RVH's size we have begun planning for the future; a future which includes a graduated plan to develop a south campus to meet healthcare needs in booming Innisfil, Bradford West Gwillimbury and South Barrie. We must begin planning now because building a south campus is a 10 to 20 year process. Good planning takes time.

Who is involved in the planning process?

Plan our Future. Together, is being overseen by the Board of Directors' Capital Planning Committee, chaired by the board's 2nd Vice Chair, Doug Frost. The committee includes hospital and RVH Foundation board members, hospital executives, a representative from the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network, municipal representatives from Barrie, Innisfil, Bradford West Gwillimbury and the County of Simcoe, as well as community representatives, including volunteers, patient and family advisory council (PFAC) members.

How do I get involved?

Engagement with TEAM RVH, patients, the public and our partners will be critical to success of the planning process. RVH is committed to inclusive, transparent, respectful, genuine conversations with our community. Go to the website www.rvhplanourfuture.ca to find out about upcoming public sessions and what we've heard so far.

How do I get more information?

Stay connected by visiting our website www.rvhplanourfuture.ca – there you can learn more, request updates, and share your ideas. You can even sign up for mailing list to have regular updates sent directly to you. If you belong to a club or group and you would like us to present at an upcoming event or meeting, please email your requests to planourfuture@rvh.on.ca.