



**WEST PARK
HEALTHCARE CENTRE**

REHABILITATION, COMPLEX CONTINUING AND LONG-TERM CARE

News release

March 7, 2006

West Park Healthcare Centre Celebrates Opening of Expanded Chronic Assisted Ventilatory Care Service

Toronto – On March 7 at 1:00 p.m., West Park Healthcare Centre marks the official opening of its expanded Chronic Assisted Ventilatory Care Service at its 82 Buttonwood Avenue site.

The 22-bed unit expands by six beds the centre's ability to accept patients who require ongoing mechanical assistance to breath. These patients currently reside in intensive/critical care units across the Greater Toronto Area.

Moving to West Park's specialized chronic care service provides patients with enhanced quality of life. It also contributes to improved wait times for people facing elective surgery or in emergency rooms by making more intensive/critical care spaces available.

Funding for the expansion was provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care as part of its critical care wait time strategy.

"Chronically ventilated patients have been an underserved population in the province with regard to appropriate level of care," says Anne-Marie Malek, President and Chief Executive officer of the centre. "West Park Healthcare Centre is very grateful for this support that has enabled the centre to make a real difference in what we do in this unique service."

The renovations and expansion have not only added spaces for six more patients and upgraded the centre's previous 16 patient rooms, they have also: enhanced patient safety by adding a team work station that enables staff to maintain visual contact with patients on the unit; expanded patient contact with the outside community by adding a patient computer area and facilitated improved teamwork and quality of work life for the staff delivering care by adding new work areas.

Patient Pat Godin spent 11 months in a critical care unit before coming to West Park as one of the first patients admitted to the new service.

continued.../2



**WEST PARK
HEALTHCARE CENTRE**

REHABILITATION, COMPLEX CONTINUING AND LONG-TERM CARE

“I can’t tell you how much it means to me and my family. Since coming here, I’ve been able to exercise for the first time in 12 years, I’ve been encouraged to get involved in activities around the centre, and I’ve even been able to go to Sherway and Yorkdale malls with my family who’ve been trained to care for me,” she says “I feel that I belong to a community that is dedicated to my wellbeing. On behalf of the patients of the CAVC Service, I’d like to thank the government for the funding that has expanded these services and made space available for me.”

West Park Healthcare Centre provides specialized rehabilitation, complex continuing care and long-term care services to people who live within the Greater Toronto Area. The centre’s mission is to help people overcome their health barriers to live the fullest lives possible after the onset of an illness or injury.

West Park offers a broad range of government-funded services to help people with chronic diseases and those recovering from a life altering illness or accident, such as multiple sclerosis, strokes, amputation, or joint injury. The centre is known internationally for its expertise and research in respiratory medicine, particularly for its care for people with tuberculosis, and for its rehabilitation services for those with emphysema and chronic bronchitis (known as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD).

-30 -

For more information, please contact

Sandra Fawcett

Director, Public Relations

Phone: 416-243-3730

Pager: 416-372-2915

Email: sandra.fawcett@westpark.org