



Renfrew Victoria Hospital receives provincial environment award

Renfrew Victoria Hospital (RVH) has been recognized on a provincial level for its environmental leadership.

The local hospital received the Green Health Care Energy Efficiency Award at the Ontario Hospital Association's annual conference in Toronto last week (November 6).

"This is a significant achievement for a small, rural hospital," comments RVH Chair Kent Tubman.

"As an organization, we have made a conscious commitment to extend our commitment to quality health care into the broader realm of caring for our environment," he adds. "It is gratifying to be recognized by our peers across Ontario for the work that we're doing."

The award singles out the \$1 million investment made by the hospital earlier this year to reduce its energy consumption.

"This was an investment that made sense in a number of ways," comments Bill Welsh, chair of the RVH finance committee. "The hospital is realizing substantial ongoing savings in our energy bills, our staff and patients are enjoying the comfort of better lighting and air quality, and we were able to provide leadership in environmental stewardship."

The project included installing a solar wall that provides pre-heated fresh air to the operating room. More efficient plumbing and lighting fixtures were installed throughout the building, and new occupancy sensors and mechanical controls automatically adjust light levels, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning levels.

"It was a major project that affected every area of the hospital," comments RVH CEO Randy Penney, adding, "All of our staff and physicians share in this provincial honour for their commitment to making this work."

"Our board also deserves a great deal of the credit for providing outstanding leadership in this area, once again," he adds.

To tackle the environmental challenge, RVH teamed up with Honeywell, a company that specializes in energy efficiency solutions. The project began with a thorough review of energy consumption at RVH.

Honeywell also worked with the hospital to raise awareness about energy conservation. The company sponsored lunch specials in the RVH cafeteria and provided environmental gifts and educational materials for participants.

The hospital will save approximately \$80,000 each year on its electricity and heating bills, thanks to the changes that have been made.

(For more information, contact Randy Penney, CEO, Renfrew Victoria Hospital, 613-432-4851, ext. 260.)