

# New London Hospital Opens New Wing, Razes Old Building



The new wing of New London Hospital (l) is now open to patients, while the old part of the Medical Office Building (r) has been demolished.

Staff photos: Charlie Darling

## Single-Patient Rooms Highlight \$21 Million Expansion

By Margot Sanger-Katz  
Concord Monitor staff

From the March 28 *Concord Monitor*  
A two-year, \$21 million, 48,000 square foot addition to New London Hospital is complete, bringing wide hallways, single patient rooms, new doctors' offices, and views of Mount Kearsarge.

The hospital began the expansion to update its facilities and bring more of its services – which had been spread around town – onto the central hospital campus. Now, primary care doctors and specialists can see patients inside the hospital building, making referrals for tests and X-rays a cinch. Pediatrics, rehabilitation, and some administrative services have also been brought to the County Road facility.

President and CEO Bruce King said the hospital was lucky in its timing and the generosity of the community. Local donors have already pledged more than \$7 million toward the project. New London Hospital sought bond financing when the market was ripe, and it locked in contracts for the price of labor and materials just before oil and steel went through the roof.

"We're 98 percent to our fundraising goal," King said enthusiastically, adding that a several million dollar capital campaign would be unthinkable in today's economic climate.

Other hospitals that started planned expansions just after New London are struggling. Monadnock Hospital in Peterborough has slowed down a similarly ambitious expansion. Lakes Region General Hospital in Laconia has also postponed some phases of its expansion. Concord Hospital is on track to finish its own expansion, which began years before. But with tightening credit markets and endowment losses, it's chosen to postpone some other capital improvements on the docket.

Like many of the hospital expansion projects in the region, New London's renovation will convert all of its hospital rooms to single-patient status,

the new norm in a medical environment that stresses privacy and infection control. Those rooms have also been enlarged and feature private bathrooms with showers and trundle beds for visiting family members. Wireless internet throughout the building will allow patients and visitors to get online.

Now that new medical and surgical rooms have opened, the hospital is cordoning off the wing of its 1958 building that houses its older patient rooms. This week, crews began gutting the hallway to make way for new, modern fittings. That wing is scheduled for completion in May.

In the meantime, the hospital is running with fewer beds than normal. So far, so good, King said. But it's possible that some patients might have to go elsewhere if there's a spike in admissions. The hospital is trying to prevent such a possibility by spacing elective procedures, but it's notified Dartmouth and Concord Hospital.

Doctors offices have also been brought into the hospital's main facility, moved from an aging and destined-for-demolition building across the campus. The office facilities leave room for growth in the hospital's staff and have suites available for lease by outside specialists.

The hospital also designed one addition to make it easier to add another floor, should the need arise.

Patients can now enter the new, bright hospital entrance and check into nearly any portion of the facility without leaving the building – an improvement designed to make life easier for older patients and those with trouble getting around. New suites house the hospital's sleep lab, infusion center, and Coumadin clinics. A new garage and airbag connector that resembles an airline jetway connects to the visiting mobile MRI trailer that used to be a freestanding structure.

King said that the hospital worked hard to make the building as green as possible. Though the expanded building still uses a conventional heating system, it used green materials and designed the addition to minimize water runoff.

Among other things, the hospital  
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## Hospital Razes Building, Sets Sights On Raising \$225,000

By Donna Gatnarek  
New London Hospital

New London Hospital sponsored an event to announce the impending demolition of the front portion of the Medical Office Building (MOB) at 249 County Road. At the same time, a Leadership Challenge was announced with the goal of raising \$225,000 to bring the Capital Campaign to a successful completion.

"The razing of the front portion of the MOB is the next important phase of the Building Towards the Future proj-

ect," said Bruce King, New London Hospital President and CEO. "When this building was constructed 35 years ago, it represented the finest in primary care. Today, we mark the change from this building to our new space, complete with new equipment, new technology, and electronic medical records."

Following King's welcome, Chaplain Cheryl Fitzgerald offered reflective remarks. King then thanked the lead donors, trustees, and senior leadership who made the Leadership Challenge possible. All gifts in support of New London Hospital's Building Towards the Future (BTTF) Capital Campaign will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to

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