



Crumbling Hospital

News > Regional News

Crumbling Hospital

June 5, 2008

ONE OF THE HOSPITALS THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN IS ST. MARY'S OF THE LAKE.... RUN BY PROVIDENCE CARE. ESTABLISHED IN 1946 -- ST. MARY'S HAS 144 BEDS FOR PATIENTS WHO ARE IN COMPLEX CONTINUING CARE. ACTUALLY, MANY OF THEM ARE LONG-TERM RESIDENTS. AND IF HEALTH CARE OFFICIALS GET THEIR WAY, ST. MARY'S WILL GET A BRAND NEW HOSPITAL. NEWSWATCH'S STU HAY REPORTS. FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, MAY ANN HAS CALLED ST. MARY'S OF THE LAKE HOSPITAL HER HOME. CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR, HER ROOM USED TO HAVE A VIEW OF THE LAKE. BUT BECAUSE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK OUTSIDE THE BUILDING, THAT VIEW IS NOW GONE.

DALE KENNEY

"WE'VE HAD SOME ISSUES WITH THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE OF THE BUILDING. THE ACTUAL STEEL STRUCTURE HAS RUSTED AND THE STONE HAS STARTED TO SEPARATE AWAY FROM THE STEEL STRUCTURE. SO WE'VE HAD TO DO SOME STABILIZATION WORK TO MAKE THE BUILDING SAFE."

AND IT IS SAFE.

BUT THIS PLASTIC CONSTRUCTION WRAP THAT BLOCKS MAY ANN'S VIEW ISN'T GOING AWAY SOON.

IT WILL COST 12 MILLION DOLLARS TO DO THE STONE AND STEEL REPAIR WORK. MONEY THE HOSPITAL WOULD PREFER TO INVEST IN A NEW BUILDING THAT'S PLANNED FURTHER DOWN KING STREET... THE CURRENT SITE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

DALE

" THESE BUILDING ARE OLD AND ANY INVESTMENT HERE MAY BE LOST. SO WE ARE HOPING TO MOVE AHEAD WITH OUR NEW BUILDING BEFORE WE MAKE AN INVESTMENT HERE."

BUT WHEN THAT WILL HAPPEN IS UP TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

SO FAR THEY'VE APPROVED 16 MILLION DOLLARS TO BEGIN DESIGN WORK AND SITE PLANNING TO MOVE ST. MARY'S ... PART OF A 350 MILLION DOLLAR HOSPITAL EXPANSION PLAN FOR ALL 3 KINGSTON HOSPITALS.

FOR ST. MARY'S ... THE EVENTUAL MOVE TO A NEW HOSPITAL WILL MEAN MORE SPACE, IMPROVED WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY, AND PRIVATE ROOMS FOR ITS LONG-TERM RESIDENTS.

MARCY SAXE-BRAITHWAITE

"ONE OF OUR RESIDENTS HAS BEEN HERE FOR OVER 40 YEARS NOW.

MANY HAVE BEEN HERE 10 TO 15 YEARS.

SOME JUST A COUPLE OF YEARS.

BUT THEY ARE NOT GOING HOME.

THEY ARE HERE.

THIS IS WHERE THEY WILL STAY AND END OF LIFE CARE WILL BE PROVIDED HERE."

A TOUGH PILL TO SWALLOW WHEN THE VIEW OUT YOUR WINDOW IS SCAFFOLDING AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

AND YOU EAT YOUR MEALS IN YOUR BEDROOM BECAUSE THERE IS NO DINNING ROOM.

MARCY

"THIS IS THEIR HOME.

AND WE ARE PRIVILEGED THAT WE CAN SERVE THEM IN THEIR HOME.

AND WE KNOW WE ARE GUESTS IN THEIR HOME."

AND THE PLANS FOR A "NEW HOME"

ARE STILL YEARS AWAY.

BUT THEY DO INCLUDE WATER VIEWS IN EVERY ROOM.

A VIEW MAY ANN HOPES TO SEE SOONER RATHER THAT LATER.

STU HAY CKWS NEWSWATCH KINGSTON.

[« Back to CKWS Home](#)