CAMH has reached a major construction milestone in its Queen Street Redevelopment Project.

On January 11, 2011, staff, clients, community members, and government dignitaries joined together to celebrate the ‘topping off’ of the Gateway Building – one of three new buildings of Phase 1B of the redevelopment.

A ‘topping off’ ceremony is a tradition on building sites, signifying that the highest point of a building has been reached.

A crowd of staff, clients, neighbours, and supporters heard CAMH CEO Dr. Catherine Zahn; the Honourable Liz Sandals, MPP and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; and Matt Ainley, Executive Vice President of Carillion Canada, envision the future of the Queen Street Redevelopment Project and the opportunities it presents for the advancement of addictions and mental health.

MPP Sandals then verbally guided the crane as it carried a giant CAMH-purple bucket filled with concrete to the top of the building. The concrete was poured out; and, with an awaiting construction worker shouting, “Mission accomplished”, the Gateway Building was officially ‘topped off’.

Guests were then invited to sign a commemorative steel beam that will later be placed in the Gateway Building.

With this milestone behind CAMH, construction continues, and preparations to move into the buildings in the spring of 2012 are now underway.
Construction Now

Construction of the three new CAMH buildings began in January 2010 and is now approximately 35 per cent complete with work continuing to progress on schedule and on budget.

The exterior enclosure of the Gateway Building is now being applied, which will allow for continued work on mechanical and electrical construction, along with the opportunity for drywall work to proceed in the coming months. Structural work continues on both the Intergenerational Wellness Centre and the Utilities and Parking Building.

Construction is expected to be completed in early 2012.

CAMH is Getting Ready to Move

Phase 1B operational readiness planning underway

Phase 1B of our Queen Street Redevelopment is a large and complex endeavour – three to four times the magnitude of the first phase on White Squirrel Way – and the doors are scheduled to open to clients and the public next year.

CAMH is gearing up; teams representing programs, services, and functions from across CAMH have held dozens of sessions since November 2010 as part of our ‘operational readiness’ planning process. These meetings will continue to ensure plans stay on track and that everyone at CAMH is preparing for the changes ahead.

At this time, CAMH is pleased to report that planning initiatives are on track. However, there is still a lot of work ahead to ensure a smooth transition to the new buildings.

Looking ahead, occupancy will take place in spring 2012 with the new buildings being operational shortly thereafter.

In the meantime, stay tuned for more on operational readiness and the upcoming move.
And the ‘New Street’ Name is...
...still a secret (well, almost)

After launching a street naming contest last fall to name ‘New Street’ – a brand-new public street that runs parallel to and south of Queen Street West, between White Squirrel Way and Shaw Street – CAMH received more than 170 individual submissions, many with more than one name suggested.

After close review, CAMH was able to narrow down the names to three leading contenders. These were submitted to the City of Toronto to review with fire, police, and EMS services to assess the suitability of each of the three potential names.

Two of our three submissions were turned down as there were similar street names that already existed. One was Marian Bethune Drive (after the Queen Street asylum’s first professional nurse in 1905); however, there is already a Bethune Blvd. in Scarborough. The other was Mabel Street (referring to a Queen Street psychiatric patient from 1870–1918); however, this conflicts with Mabelle Avenue in Etobicoke. The third submission, Stokes Street, came back with no objections from emergency services.

CAMH then forwarded an application to the City of Toronto, proposing that ‘New Street’ be named Stokes Street, in honour of Professor Aldwyn B. Stokes who held many notable positions within the field of psychiatry and is known as the person most responsible for establishing the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, which opened its doors in 1966. The Clarke was one of the four institutions that merged to form CAMH in 1998; the other three were the Addiction Research Foundation, the Donwood Institute, and the Queen Street Mental Health Centre.

As well, Stokes Street complements the nearby streets that have already been named in honour of the historic leaders in the area of addictions and mental health: Workman Way (named after the visionary medical superintendent of the original ‘Provincial Lunatic Asylum’, which was the precursor of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre) and Gordon Bell Road (named after the pioneering addictions physician who founded the Donwood Institute).

We will unveil the name for ‘New Street’ once we have a response from the City of Toronto, which we anticipate will be in the coming weeks.

So, stay tuned… a secret to be revealed...

Dr. Aldwyn Stokes on a 1957 cover of ‘Saturday Night’.
### Non-CAMH Building Update

**Construction update**

The first non-CAMH building now being constructed at Ossington Avenue and Queen Street West will house street-level retail with seven floors – 179 units – of much needed, affordable rental housing for the community.

Construction work is continuing underground at the P2 level. Waterproofing and drainage systems will be completed and the first concrete slab will be poured, including walls to the P1 level, by the end of March. The two underground parking levels will be completed in April, followed by the formation of the ground floor in May.

Excavation is nearly complete, and there are approximately 70 loads of soil being removed from the site each day. Best efforts are being made by the developer to keep Queen Street free of mud through daily street sweeping.

*During the week of March 14,* there will be a tower crane delivered in parts to the site via flatbed trucks. As these latter deliveries are oversize loads, they will be accompanied by police escorts to ensure traffic and pedestrian safety. An oversize load permit will be on site. Following the delivery of the tower crane, it will be assembled on site, which will take about a week to complete.

As well, there will now be construction activity on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on the non-CAMH site, for which the builder has permission.

This integrated redevelopment – the mix of CAMH and non-CAMH uses, connected to the surrounding neighbourhood – will enhance the recovery of CAMH clients and the health of the community while helping to break down the stigma associated with addictions and mental health.

**Interested in renting?**

If you are interested in renting one of the units in this new non-CAMH building, you can leave a message at 416 486-4270, extension 2502, or you can fill out an online application form at [http://www.verdiroc.com/CAMH/CAMHapply.html](http://www.verdiroc.com/CAMH/CAMHapply.html).

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**Area Redevelopment**

CAMH and its construction partners – Carillion and Verdiroc – are committed to communicating information and details about their development projects to you on a regular and timely basis. It is important to note that the West Queen West neighbourhood is a highly urban redevelopment area and there are other builders in this vicinity. For instance, private condominiums are currently being built on the north side of Queen Street at Ossington, and this is not a CAMH project.

We would like to assure you that Carillion and Verdiroc, along with CAMH, meet regularly and share updates regarding each of the activities on CAMH property that may affect you – our neighbours. In addition, this information will now be shared with the construction company on the north side of Queen Street West and Ossington Avenue, YorkCON, so that they are aware of the progress and community impacts of the CAMH and non-CAMH construction projects.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, call our redevelopment line at 416 536-8501, ext. 3330 or send an e-mail to redevelopment_feedback@camh.net.