

The Ajax Pickering Hospital has an impressive history, and the Ajax Pickering Hospital Foundation wants to celebrate it as well as the donors who - at every step - have made its growth possible.



Did you know that the actual first hospital in Ajax opened in 1941 as part of the Defence Industries Limited on King's Crescent across from Ajax Town Hall, and after the war it was literally

dismantled piece by piece and moved to the hospital's current site?

The new "Ajax & Pickering General Hospital" opened in 1954, costing \$210,396 to construct & equip it. In its 8,000 square feet, only eight nurses were on staff overseeing 38 beds, 12 bassinets, and a fully-equipped OR!

Only four years later, the hospital was bursting at its seams! The number of patients being admitted annually had doubled, and the lab was processing nine times the number of tests!



Beginning in 1960, "Our Hospital Building Fund", chaired by Harry A. Newman, committed to raising the \$495,000 of the total cost of the new hospital not covered by federal, provincial or municipal grants.

On Saturday November 21, 1964, the Honourable William Earle Rowe, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario officially opened the new Ajax & Pickering General Hospital that now boasted:

- over 90,000 square feet
- 127 beds;
- 24 bassinets, and 3 incubators;
- a 6-bed ICU that could increase to 10;
- a full paediatrics floor with a special tonsil unit;
- 18 beds for chronic patients (located throughout the floors because it was thought that the "old folks have something for youth, and youth, in turn, has something for the aged");
- a physiotherapy department with two whirl pool baths & a paraffin wax bath;
- 3 operating rooms with space to add a fourth;
- a parking lot
- a pneumatic tube system for direct delivery to and from nursing stations and major departments, and high-speed elevators that were designed to be able to go up to seven floors
- 76 full-time nurses, and the hospital's first fulltime pharmacist!

The Foundation wrote & designed historical panels that are now displayed along the main hospital corridor, with more to come as we spotlight the 1994 building of the west wing & the 2009 opening of the

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north tower.

Luckily, you do not have to visit the Ajax Pickering Hospital, but can just

- [click here for 1954](#)
- [click here for 1964](#)

If you want to get in touch with me, just give the Foundation office a call at 905.683.2320 x11501 or drop us an email at aphfoundation@lh.ca.

Or "like" us on [Facebook](#) to check out even more about what we are up to!

Yours in Philanthropy,

Tracy L. Paterson

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