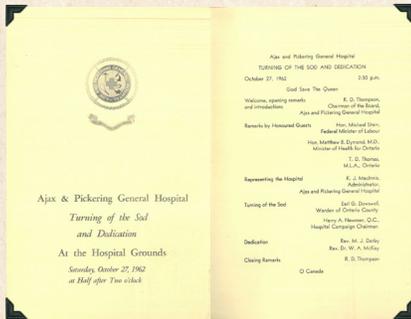


HISTORY OF AJAX PICKERING HOSPITAL



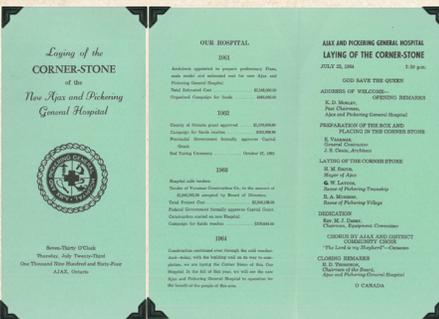
A December 7, 1961 full page advertisement in the Ajax Advertiser for the fundraising campaign



The official program for the Turning of the Sod ceremony, October 27, 1962



Fundraising Campaign Chairman, Harry A. Newman, QC (with spade), & the Warden of The County of Ontario Earl G. Downell turning the sod at the official ceremony



The official program for the Laying of the Cornerstone ceremony, July 23, 1964



Showing the close collaboration of the communities in making the new hospital a reality (L-R) Russ Murrison (Reeve** of Pickering Village), Harry Smith (Mayor of Ajax), Cliff Laycox (the Reeve of Pickering Township) officially lay the cornerstone together.

Even after a brick addition* was added to the hospital in July of 1958 - increasing the number of adult beds from thirty-eight to fifty - the 8,000 square foot Ajax & Pickering General Hospital was bursting at its seams! The number of patients being admitted annually had doubled since 1954, and the lab was processing nine times the number of tests!

In early 1959, the Hospital Board of Directors determined that the growth of the Ajax, Pickering, Whitby and Oshawa communities necessitated the construction of a new hospital. Based on their study, Agnew, Peckham & Associates recommended that the hospital's capacity would need to double by 1964, also noting that further bed increases would be required in the following years.

Architects Craig and Zeidler** set to work on their design of the new hospital in 1961. What they envisioned was revolutionary for the times as well as in hospital design. Their concept was far-sighted in that essential services, such as the Emergency Department and Operating Rooms, made up the central core so that they would not have to move as future expansions happened around them. Each of the four floors could expand horizontally, and three additional floors could also be added above.

Beginning in 1960, "Our Hospital Building Fund", chaired by Harry A. Newman, was committed to raising the \$495,000 of the total cost of the new hospital not covered by federal, provincial or municipal grants. This included 700 volunteer canvassers visiting over 7,000 homes in December 1961 alone. As the campaign material says, "nothing is more important than the easing of pain, the saving of life, the preservation of health and hope".

On October 27, 1962, the sod-turning and dedication ceremonies were held, with the corner stone being laid on July 23, 1963 in front of a 500-person crowd.

*after the original wooden hospital structure was dismantled, this brick addition remained. It is still in use today, and is just a short walk from the south end of the hospital. ** Ed Zeidler went on to design Ontario Place and the Eaton Centre in Toronto, and Zeidler Architecture is still in business today. ***a Reeve's responsibility is to be head of the municipal council and to act as Chief Executive Officer of the corporation

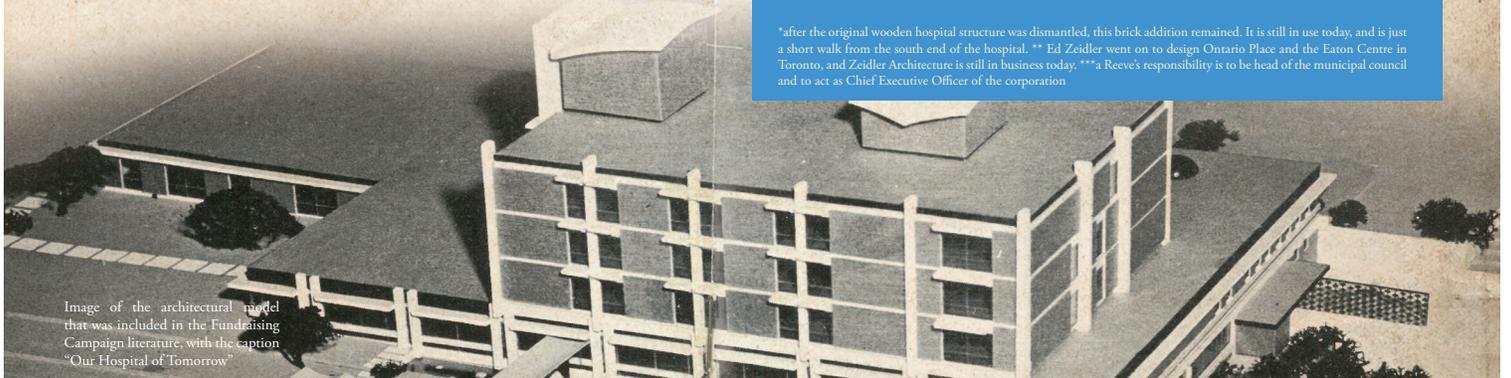


Image of the architectural model that was included in the Fundraising Campaign literature, with the caption "Our Hospital of Tomorrow"

1964

HISTORY OF AJAX PICKERING HOSPITAL



The hospital under construction, 1963



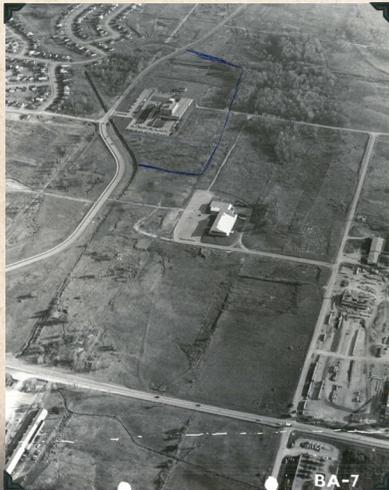
(L-R) K.D. Morley, the Hospital's Board of Directors, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Hon. Earl Rowe and R. D. Thompson (cutting the ribbon to officially open the new Ajax & Pickering General Hospital



An official photo of the operating room



An official photo of the Rotunda at the hospital entrance facing Harwood Ave. East.



An official aerial photo of the new Ajax & Pickering General Hospital

Image of the architectural model that was included in the Fundraising Campaign literature, with the caption "Our Hospital of Tomorrow"

On Saturday November 21, 1964, the Honourable William Earle Rowe, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, officially opened the new Ajax & Pickering General Hospital. The over 200 guests toured a brand new – albeit patient-free - hospital which boasted over 90,000 square feet, housing a total of 127 beds, 24 bassinets, and 3 incubators. This included 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 and a paraffin wax bath; and 3 operating rooms with space to add a fourth.

There are 76 full-time nurses with total staffing numbers reaching 180 full-time and 30 part-time employees. In addition, the first full-time pharmacist was hired.

At a cost of \$2,348,000, the new building had modern facilities and equipment for all the departments. Every bed in the medical and surgical departments was equipped for centralized oxygen service. All the private and semi-private rooms had telephones. The surgical suites, nurseries and the central sterilizing room are completely air conditioned, with the provision for future cooling of the entire hospital. There was also parking for doctors, staff and 75 visitors (at the time, large hospitals did not have visitor parking). And in preparation for a future expansion, a pneumatic tube system was installed for direct delivery to and from nursing stations and major departments, and the high-speed elevators were designed to be able to go up to seven floors!

And, while sewing groups still continued to repair hospital linens, employees now ran the new in-house laundry service which was projected to handle thousands of pounds of wash a week!

Moving a hospital, including all its patients, staff, charts & records, the pharmacy, medical and dietary stores as well as the equipment, while keeping “business as usual” is no easy feat. But, on November 30th, patients began their day with breakfast in the old building and ate lunch in the new hospital. And, just two days later, elective admissions and bookings restarted, with the hospital reaching 85% capacity within two months of opening.

The hospital built in 1964 now comprises the East Tower of the Ajax Pickering Hospital, facing Harwood Ave South.

Sources: "A Town Called Ajax". Edited by Archie MacDonald – Published for The Ajax Historical Board ©1995 "Hospital Open House Saturday" - November 19, 1964 – Ajax Advertiser "New Hospital Toured by Staff Members and Hospital Auxiliary Last Week" - November 26, 1964 – Ajax Advertiser "First Line of Defence for 35,000 People" – Our Hospital Building Fund Campaign brochure "An Interesting History Told of Ajax and Pickering General Hospital" – approximately February, 1964 (newspaper unknown) "What You will find at Our New Hospital" – October 25, 1964 – The Guardian "New Ajax-Pickering Hospital at 85 Percent Capacity Two Months After Opening" – approximately January, 1965 (newspaper unknown)

1964

Ajax
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