

Concordia: construction and cnic

by Vienna Badiuk

September.

Most regard the month as one in which a variety of activities get into high gear.

Certainly that has been the case for Concordia Hospital.

On September 20 a sod turning ceremony was held for the expansion of the emergency department and the Bethania Mennonite Personal Care Home.

And on September 26 the auxiliary held a fund raising fashion show and dinner at the International Inn.

It was a bright, windy day -- as hospital staff, board and auxiliary members, dignitaries, politicians and friends gathered on the hospital grounds in recognition of the recently approved expansion.

The mood was one of optimistic anticipation.

"I'm very pleased that we're getting this department (expansion). It's been a long time in coming. The number of patients coming through our department has been increasing every year," said Loris Holyk, head nurse of the emergency department -- one of the people whose work area will be most positively affected by the increase of space.

For foundation committee member, Phil Grey, the expansion was coming about none too soon.

"It's about time this community hospital was opened up," said Grey.

Speaking on behalf of the minister of health, Larry Desjardins, who was unable to attend the ceremony, Transcona Member of the Legislature, Wilson Parasiuk pointed to the economic reality of the times.

"Frankly, delivery of health care, especially during times of recession can be very difficult."

He added, however, that "This is a development that we know will add to our community."

Board and auxiliary member, councillor Anne Jorowski (Miles Macdonell) described the expansion as "tremendous".

"The area is expanding and we need the facility," she said.

That sentiment was echoed by councillor Reg Wyatt (Transcona).

Pointing to the need for expansion, hospital executive director, Sig Enns stated that for the past three months the hospital had been operating with an occupancy level of better than 95 per cent.

Further, Enns noted that this year was

the 10th anniversary of the hospital's Concordia Avenue location.

"We've had a good decade and we're looking for more," said Enns, to the energetic applause of those in attendance.

And six days later -- "more" was what it was all about, as some \$1900 were raised through the Fall Fashions by Polo Park Show.

President of the auxiliary, Linda said that although discussions have taken place as to what hospital equipment will be bought with it, a final decision has not yet been reached.



Parasiuk: expansion is reinforcement of the community hospital facility.

photo by Vienna Badiuk

