



July 7, 2006

Rosewood Manor opens new wing for seniors, adds 30 beds

RICHMOND, BC - Rosewood Manor and Vancouver Coastal Health today officially opened a new Special Care Unit for elderly residents with dementia.

The new addition to Rosewood Manor, located at 6260 Blundell Road in Richmond, features 36 single bed rooms and a number of features intended to minimize, as much as possible, agitation and confusion for dementia residents, including:

- Fewer rooms per floor, 12 compared to the previous 41-bed special care unit. Smaller 'communities' are less disruptive and agitating for those with dementia
- Wandering loops allow clients to walk and encounter points of interest such as plants, a lounge, and fireside area
- Doors are painted to attract or dissuade entry, based on the safety of the area
- Bathing areas are warm and spa-like

"This is marvelous news for the people of Richmond," said John Yap, MLA for Richmond-Steveston. "It means our community will continue to have the quality residential care it needs and supports our government's commitment to provide a range of services for seniors, close to home. Our commitment is to build 5,000 additional senior care beds by 2008 and this new wing at Rosewood brings us closer to that commitment."

Dementia affects one in three seniors 85 and over. Nearly two thirds of those with dementia have Alzheimer's disease and the remainder vascular and other forms of dementia, all characterized by a progressive and irreversible loss in mental capabilities. As brain cells are destroyed, the resident exhibits symptoms such as memory loss, confusion and the inability to care for themselves.

"The safety of our residents was topmost in our minds when designing the new wing, along with creating a comfortable and home-like setting," according to Deborah Goegan, Administrator, Rosewood Manor. "We wanted to create an environment that promotes a feeling of calm and provides easy and secure access to the outdoor courtyards."

The \$6.4 million capital cost of the new wing was paid for by the Richmond Intermediate Care Society, which operates Rosewood Manor. Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) will provide the facility with \$6.4 million annually in operating funds for the 151 beds.

"VCH is pleased to be a partner with the Richmond Intermediate Care Society on this expansion to Rosewood Manor", said Nancy Rigg, Executive Director, Community Care Network, VCH. "It is gratifying to see that the most frail of our elderly clients are able to live in an environment that provides quality of life through excellence in caring, supported by a state-of-the-art setting."

...more

The Rosewood Manor Care Foundation raised more than \$218,000 to equip and outfit the new wing with furnishings. “The *Furnish a Room Campaign* received exceptional community support from both organizations and individuals. These people clearly care about having services for the growing numbers of elder adults, in our community,” said Adrienne White, the Foundation’s Director of Communication and Community Development. “We are grateful to the donors, supporters and volunteers who dedicated their resources to make this goal a reality,” added White.

Six rooms in the older building will be refurbished to create a geriatric treatment and assessment area, tentatively scheduled to open in 2007/08. The goal of VCH and Rosewood is to create a Campus of Care where Richmond seniors will be able to access a number of services to support healthy aging within their neighbourhood.

VCH is responsible for the delivery of \$2 billion in community, hospital and residential care to over one million people in communities from Richmond through Vancouver, the North Shore, Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky corridor, Powell River, Bella Bella and Bella Coola.

Rosewood Manor is a residential care facility governed by the Richmond Intermediate Care Society and operated by a volunteer Board of Directors. It provides seniors with 24-hour nursing care and supervision to ensure the highest quality of life while promoting individual dignity within the comfort of a home-like and safe environment.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Viviana Zanocco
Media Relations Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health
Telephone: 604-244-5201

Deborah Goegan
Administrator
Rosewood Manor
Telephone: 604-271-3590 (23)