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Media Release

York Central Hospital Opens New Family Birthing Centre and Ontario's First Full-time, On-site Maternal Fetal Medicine Clinic in a Community Hospital Setting

Richmond Hill, ON: Today, York Central Hospital is pleased to open its new \$ 3.4 million Family Birthing Centre. Over the past eight years, the Hospital has experienced a 50 percent increase in the number of births. Last year York Central Hospital helped to welcome 2,400 babies to our community; with the opening of the new Family Birthing Centre the hospital will be able to accommodate up to 3,200 births a year.

“The birth of a baby is one of life’s milestone events. Today we are proud to open a new facility that will help us to fulfill our commitment to provide state-of-the-art pre and postnatal care to expectant parents and their families in one of Canada’s fastest growing communities, now and in the foreseeable future,” says Hospital President and CEO.

The New Family Birthing Centre includes eight Birthing Suites, two Operating Suites, a Triage Area and Fetal Assessment Room, a Neonatal Resuscitation Room and Maternal Fetal Medicine Clinic. The new Birthing Suites will feature home-like décor, private ensuite bathrooms, and greater space for fathers and other family members to enjoy the birth experience.

“As we prepared for the opening of this new centre, our hospital has also invested in enhanced pre natal care for mothers and their unborn babies. I am proud to announce that York Central Hospital is now the first community hospital in Ontario to have a full-time, on-site Maternal Fetal Medicine Service including a Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist, 3D/4D Ultrasound Technology and a Pediatric Cardiologist with expertise in fetal echocardiography to care for high-risk pregnancies,” Dr. Ford Luk, the hospital’s Clinical Director and Chief of Obstetrics.

New Centre Provides One-Stop Convenience for Expectant Mothers and Their Families

With the opening of the new Family Birthing Centre, the hospital’s birthing and postnatal care services are now located in one convenient location for both expectant parents and their families. No longer will women have to be transferred from the second to the fifth floor after giving birth. Now expectant mothers and their partners will go directly to the fifth floor where their babies will be born and they will remain on this same level for their care until mom and baby are ready to be discharged.

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The Official Opening Ceremony at 2:00 p.m. today will be hosted by Hospital President Bruce Harber, with special guests Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees and Deputy Mayor Brenda Hogg of the Town of Richmond Hill along with Hospital Board Chair, David Weldon, Foundation Chair Greg Miklas, Dr. Ford Luk, Clinical Director and Chief of Obstetrics, Dr. Gerald Friedman, Clinical Director and Chief of Pediatrics, and Birthing Centre Nurse Rita Goodhoofd.

Woman and Child Program

The Family Birthing Centre is part of the Woman and Child Program at York Central Hospital. The program offers expert and compassionate care for mothers and their babies before, during and after birth. Other program areas include a Genetics Clinic, Healthy Babies/Healthy Children Screening, an Inpatient Breastfeeding Clinic, Maternal Fetal Medicine Service, Pre and Postnatal Education, and a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. With all of these services under one roof, the Woman and Child Program offers convenience and superior continuity of care.

About York Central Hospital

Located in the heart of one of Canada's fastest growing urban areas, York Central Hospital is a 426-bed acute care hospital that serves more than 400,000 residents in Southwest York Region and beyond. The Hospital is pleased to have begun construction on Phase One of a \$150 million major expansion and renovation which will dramatically increase its ability to provide enhanced access and further reduce waiting times in this growing community. The Hospital is currently seeking approval for Phase Two of its Redevelopment scheduled to begin in 2009 upon completion of Phase One.

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