

The Perley Rideau – a Bit of History

- 1897...** On September 16th, fourteen people meet at the Ottawa Y.M.C.A. to find a way to care for persons who need shelter and treatment over an extended period. Through the generosity of the heirs of the late William G. Perley, the family property at 415 Wellington Street is conveyed to the subscribers for this use and becomes known as the Perley Home for Incurables (Perley Home). In October, a Certificate of Incorporation is registered in the Carleton County Court.
- 1898...** On January 1st the Perley Home is officially opened by His Excellency The Governor General and Lady Aberdeen. The provincial maintenance grant is 7 cents per patient per day. The first two patients (William E. Scott and Thomas Staples) are admitted.
- 1903...** The first Women's Auxiliary is formed, with Mrs. E.B. Eddy as the first president.
- 1908...** The Nursing staff is increased from three to four.
- 1912...** The Perley Home's property is expropriated and a new site chosen at the corner of Aylmer Avenue and Barton Street and purchased for \$32,000.
- 1914...** Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister, lays the cornerstone of the new Home which is built by T.C. James for \$48,887.
- 1915...** The first patients are transferred to the new site – *the first relocation!*. The charge for maintenance is \$1.50 per day in a private room and \$1.00 for semi-private.
- 1918...** During the worldwide influenza epidemic, patients from the May Court Convalescent Home are transferred to the Perley Home so that influenza sufferers can be accommodated at the May Court Home. *Co-operation with other institutions is our tradition!*
- 1918 to**
- 1941...** Between the two World Wars additional space is added for more patients, a new residence for nurses is opened and additional property purchased on Aylmer Ave. By the end of 1941, the Perley Home reaches a capacity of 95 beds.
- 1945...** The *Rideau Veterans Home (RVH)* is built and opened by the federal government as a temporary residence to rehabilitate service personnel returning from World War II. It gradually evolves into a 139-bed long-term care facility for veterans.
- 1955...** The Perley Home is expanded to 215 beds.
- 1956...** Due to changes in provincial funding, The Perley Home becomes officially known as the *Perley Hospital*. Soon after, a Physiotherapy Department is opened and a 31-bed Orthopaedic Rehabilitation unit established.
- 1961...** The *National Defence Medical Centre (NDMC)* is officially opened to serve active military personnel. It has a 50-bed *Chronic Care Unit* reserved for veterans.
- 1961 to**
- 1987...** Many advances are introduced at the Perley Hospital including: opening of an Occupational Therapy Department in 1964, introduction of Nursing Assistant students in 1965, the start of training of Health Care Aides in 1968, full accreditation from the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation for the first time in 1972, becoming a participating member of the

Regional Laboratory Service in 1972, start of training of R.N. and R.N.A. students in 1977 and expanding the Physiotherapy Department in 1979.

- 1987...**Initial discussions and work start on the development of a new building for the Perley Hospital.
- 1988...** The Perley Hospital is asked to submit to Veterans Affairs Canada, a project plan combining the RVH and the veteran's wing of NDMC with the new Perley building.
- 1992...** In October, the Perley Hospital becomes responsible for the administration of the RVH.
- 1994...** On April 26th, a ground-breaking ceremony at the Dempsey Community Centre on Russell Road signals the start of construction of the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre (Perley Rideau) by PCL Constructors (Eastern) Ltd. Financing for the \$65-million construction budget came from: Veterans Affairs Canada (55%), Ontario Ministry of Health (30%), Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (10%), and the Community Fundraising Campaign (5%).
- 1995...** On October 21st, the first residents from the RVH are relocated to the Perley Rideau and on November 8th, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs, officially opens the Rideau Residence.
- 1996...** During March 23rd, 24th and 30th, residents from the Perley Hospital and veterans from NDMC are located to the Perley Rideau. In June, the Official Opening (attended by external contacts) and a Grand Opening (attended by staff and volunteers, residents and family members) are celebrated. That same month, a long tradition at the RVH was perpetuated with the first Strawberry Festival at the Perley Rideau. The funding was \$187.00 per resident per day.
- 1998 to**
- 2003...** Major changes were introduced to adapt to significant funding reductions as a long-term care home. The model of care was changed and more than 100 full-time equivalent staff were laid off or accepted voluntary separation.
- 1999...** On December 29th, the Perley Rideau's name is formally changed to *The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre*.
- 2000...** The new millennium begins on January 1st without a "Y2K" incident. "*A new century of excellence in long-term care has begun!*".
- 2003...** A 13-bed convalescent care pilot project was initiated, one of only two in Ontario. Based on its success, this program was established in long-term care homes across Ontario.
- 2006...** April 8, 2006 Tenth Anniversary celebrations.
- 2007...** The 12 bedroom Guest House, a respite program for people affected by early to mid stage dementia began accepting guests. This program is a collaborative effort of the Perley Rideau, the Alzheimer Society of Ottawa-Carleton, and Carefor (formerly VON). The Governor General officially opened the Guest House in June.
- 2007...** The convalescent care program increases by 5 beds to 18 beds on November 1st.

2008... The convalescent program increases by 4 beds to 22 beds (February). In addition, 9 short-stay general respite beds remain from an original 20 beds. Overall, over the past decade, the short-stay program has been adjusted to meet community needs, with 31 beds in operation in 2008.