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# History and Art in the Making

*by Nargess Zahraei, Clinical Transition Manager, Geriatric Mental Health Program*

Created by artist Michael Morbach, this inspirational mosaic is coming to life through a collaborative community of other Workman Arts artists and CAMH clients. This article comes from a CAMH clinician who has witnessed the spirit and pride of the geriatric clients participating in this creative project.

When I initially invited the clients from the Geriatric Mental Health Program to come and participate in the making of the mosaic, there was some hesitation as they were not clear on what exactly it was. Since then, there has been an overwhelming response; most of them have stayed longer than the planned time and have made arrangements to come back.



Nargess Zahraei, Clinical Transition Manager for CAMH's Geriatric Mental Health Program and author of this article, tries her artistic hand at helping to create the mosaic.

It is really amazing to witness their excitement and enthusiasm. They have become quite engaged with the project and see it as a truly therapeutic healing session. They get to put their own personality into it and are planning to come again to see the work in progress.

There was so much interest in the redevelopment that some client groups wanted to learn more about it. We went for a walking tour to look at the new buildings and the future plans that include community partners on the grounds.

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The mosaic in progress as Geriatric Mental Health Program clients participate in the making of this art piece that will be displayed in the new CAMH Intergenerational Wellness Centre.

will be thrilled as they view the beautiful mosaic in which they have participated and will truly be able to feel the mosaic's "dancing white lines of joy and freedom" and what it means to them as our clients.

One client stated that once he was discharged from CAMH, he would make a point of coming back to see the final mosaic in the new Intergenerational Wellness Centre. There will be a lot of pride for those clients when they walk into the new building, see the mosaic, and can point out the portion of the artwork that is their contribution.

Our clients expressed their appreciation of the changes that CAMH is making not only with the redevelopment but with our continued efforts to take away the stigma that is often related to people with mental illness and addictions.

And so, very soon, clients will enter a new building and



The dancing white lines in the mosaic piece that represent joy and freedom.

# Beamish and Labatt Families Recognized in Intergenerational Wellness Centre

As preparations continue for the many CAMH teams moving into the new Phase 1B buildings, the CAMH Foundation is also preparing to recognize two catalytic, early donors to the Transforming Lives Campaign.

The Beamish and Labatt families each committed \$5 million early in the campaign – and will now be publicly recognized, with a wing of the Intergenerational Wellness Centre to be named after each family. The family names will appear on the awning/canopy above the entrance to the building and on way-finding and signage throughout the building.

The Intergenerational Wellness Centre will be a new state-of-the-art facility that will house CAMH's Geriatric Mental Health Program and Child, Youth and Family Program.



Of the two wings in the new Intergenerational Wellness Building, one will be named after each family.

“The catalytic effect of such strong, early support from the Beamish and Labatt families cannot be underestimated,” said Darrell Gregersen, CAMH Foundation President and CEO. “They stood up first for CAMH long in advance of any buildings opening – and that has had a tremendous, positive impact in opening doors for other donors and leveraging further support.”

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The Beamish family's contributions to CAMH will be recognized in the new Intergenerational Wellness Centre.

For the Beamish family, supporting CAMH and the Queen Street Redevelopment Project came out of their recognition of the need to take leadership and support a highly deserving and effective organization – yet one that remains a “hard sell” because of stigma.

“Addiction and mental health issues are not new to society, but the way we deal with them can be,” said Heather Beamish, Director of the WB Family Foundation, which supports health care and medical research initiatives.

Ms. Beamish is also a Director of The Woodbridge Group and a Member of the CAMH Foundation Board since 2006.

“We were drawn toward CAMH because, quite frankly, it is not an easy sell. There’s no cute little kid on a billboard asking you to support CAMH. And, it seems that people do not want to be reminded that these issues affect many more of us than most would care to admit.”

“This has allowed society to neglect those who face mental illness and addiction for far too long, and to allow them to be treated in facilities that would not be tolerated for those facing other illnesses. Supporting CAMH is so important to my family as a way of contributing – and showing others that they should participate.”

For Arthur and Sonia Labatt, CAMH’s excellence in research, treatment, education, and health promotion matched their decision to focus their charitable giving on Canadian institutions that are world leaders.

“CAMH is already providing world-class clinical care and research, and when the project is complete, it will have facilities to match. This will allow CAMH to attract and retain the very best people right here in Toronto,” said Arthur Labatt who was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in July 1996.

“CAMH, a leader in its specialized field, is an organization in which Toronto, Ontario and Canada can take great pride.”

Arthur Labatt co-founded Trimark Financial Corporation, now Invesco, one of Canada’s largest mutual fund companies, and Dr. Sonia Labatt is an adjunct faculty member at the Centre for Environment, the University of Toronto.

The Labatts focus their philanthropy on education, health, and research. In 2007, Arthur and Sonia Labatt were recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals – Toronto Chapter as Outstanding Philanthropists.



The contributions of Sonia and Arthur Labatt will also be recognized when the new Intergenerational Wellness Centre opens next year.

# Non-CAMH Building on its Way Up

The first non-CAMH building – the Ossington-Queen Street Rental Apartments – is making progress and is up out of the ground.

Brickwork has begun on the building exterior; and, by the end of 2011, the building's concrete structure will be completed.

This month, the ground floor commercial windows, which are 17 feet tall, are being installed. The windows for the residential units will be installed approximately one to two weeks after each floor has been bricked. Following this, the interior drywall and painting will begin.

The building enclosure will be sealed tight by the end of March 2012, when the suites will be prepared for move-ins in the spring of 2012.

The second floor will also contain the management offices, a party room, and lounge areas. This floor also leads to an outdoor landscaped area, with terraced gardens and lounge furniture.

The third floor has a 5,500 square foot green roof specifically designed to meet City of Toronto standards that will contribute to green living in the heart of Toronto.

## Interested in Renting?

This building includes seven floors of much-needed, affordable rental housing. It will contain 179 units, including bachelor, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom apartments. There will also be barrier-free/accessible units.

Applications for this building are now being accepted. For leasing information, call 416 486-4270, ext. 2502 or visit [www.verdiroc.com](http://www.verdiroc.com) and click on the "100 Lower Ossington Avenue" link in red.



A view of the progress of the Ossington-Queen Street Rental Apartments (left) looking east. Also in view are two CAMH Phase 1B buildings. On the right is the Bell Gateway Building and the red-brick building (at the end of the 'road') is the Intergenerational Wellness Centre.

# CAMH Construction Update

The three buildings of Phase 1B of CAMH's Queen Street Redevelopment Project are making an impressive statement on the Queen Street West landscape. These new CAMH facilities are nearing completion and various CAMH staff, clients, programs, and services will be moving into the new buildings in June 2012.

- **Bell Gateway Building:** Drywall is substantially installed up to the seventh floor. Flooring is underway on the second, third, and fourth floors; and painting and finishes continue on all levels. The final exterior brick is being installed on the east side of the building. All windows have now been installed.
- **Intergenerational Wellness Centre:** All floors are well advanced with drywall, ceilings, and finishes. Flooring installation is underway on the second, third, and fourth floors. The exterior brick cladding is fully complete and all windows are installed. Exterior preparation for ground work on sidewalks and curbs is underway.
- **Utilities and Parking Building:** Traffic topping (i.e. surface protection/coating) has been installed on all parking levels. All of the windows have been installed and exterior cladding is almost fully complete. Mechanical and electrical systems equipment has been installed and permanent power is now on. The ground floor drywall is completely installed and finishes are underway. The exterior ground work for curbs and sidewalks have started.

In general, all three buildings are now watertight and weather tight with internal finishes well advanced. In addition, exterior roadways have been installed with base asphalt, except for Gordon Bell Road, which is being prepared for curbs and asphalt.



Photos of the three CAMH Phase 1B buildings taken in November 2011 show the progress of this major Redevelopment Project

## For More Information

If you would like more information on the CAMH Redevelopment Project, go to the Queen Street Redevelopment section of the CAMH website: [www.camh.net](http://www.camh.net).

If you have any questions or inquiries about the CAMH Redevelopment Project, call 416 535-8501, extension 3330 or send an email to [redvelopment\\_feedback@camh.net](mailto:redvelopment_feedback@camh.net).