

**For Immediate Release
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**Renovations Underway to Improve the Waiting Room and Triage Area
in the STEGH Emergency Department**

St. Thomas, ON - Renovations are underway to improve the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital's (STEGH) Emergency Department waiting, reception and triage areas. The 12-week project will be a win-win for both patients and staff. Newly installed sliding doors will separate the new triage area and main waiting room, providing patients and staff with increased privacy, security and infection control – all vital improvements. Construction began July 5th and the project will be complete mid October.

“We are very excited about the STEGH Emergency Room triage and waiting room renovations,” says Dr. Elizabeth Haney, Chief of Emergency Medicine at STEGH. “These improvements will enhance patient flow, protect patient privacy and confidentiality, improve infection control and improve staff safety.”

During construction, the Emergency Department will remain open 24/7 with no significant change for patients needing to access emergency services.

This cost of the essential renovations will be approximately \$800,000. The STEGH Foundation will finance the majority of the project through the Dr. Stan Hagerman Fund, initiated a number of years ago to support improvements to the Hospital's Emergency Department.

“The Emergency Department plays a critically important role, not only to our hospital, but to the broader community it serves. With over 38,000 Emergency visits each year, the Foundation's Board of Directors recognized the need to support this project,” explains Steve Knipe, President of the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital Foundation. “Thanks to a committed local community, the Foundation was in a strong position to support the large part of the costs associated with these much-needed renovations with the majority of funds being donated in memory of Dr. Stan Hagerman. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously.”

Renovation Highlights:

- New Triage and Registration will be brought closer together to enhance patient flow
- New dedicated Triage area will help protect privacy, confidentiality and improve infection control
- Controlled glass sliding doors adjacent to the triage desk and registration will provide staff with added safety
- More comfortable seating in the waiting area

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