



August 27, 2024

Communication to Talbot Trail Therapy Pool Members

The therapy pool, installed in 1990 as part of the South Building construction, has been a valuable resource for various programs and is operated by Talbot Trail, who rents the Therapy Pool space from the hospital. The pool is not utilized by any STEGH inpatient programs or patients.

On July 10, a failure occurred in the therapy pool, leading to extensive flooding into critical hospital infrastructure. In response to this incident, the pool was immediately drained and St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital engaged a third-party mechanical engineer (Chorley and Bisset) to assess the damage and identify the root cause.

We apologize for the delayed response in communicating with you; however, we wanted to ensure due diligence in having a third party engineer assess the situation. This has been completed.

The engineer's report revealed that the aging infrastructure supporting the pool requires substantial investment. It highlighted accelerated equipment degradation due to continued exposure to moisture and chlorinated water in the mechanical spaces, including damage to electrical distribution systems in adjacent areas. The report revealed that the aging infrastructure supporting the pool requires substantial investment of approximately \$350,000. At this time, even with extensive and costly repairs, the risk of a future leak cannot be eliminated.

After a thorough review of the incident, careful consideration of the engineer's findings, and an assessment of the impact on hospital operations, the pool will remain empty to ensure continued safe operations at our hospital.

The decision to leave the pool empty was not made lightly, but was necessary to ensure both fiscal accountability and continued safe operations at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital. The risk of a recurring leak in the mechanical room is too high and the decision to not refill the pool is made prioritizing safe operations and to ensure the highest standards of patient care within our community.

We understand the health benefits for those who utilize the therapy pool and we regret this situation.

Sincerely, Karen Davies and Chris Streib

St Thomas Elgin General Hospital President and CEO / Talbot Trail Physiotherapy President