



SHAUGHN BUTTS, THE JOURNAL

Dr. Ted Purcell, left, chairman of the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation, and Ron Harry, president of the Building Trades of Alberta Charitable Foundation announced a \$2.5-million donation Thursday from the trades foundation and three unions toward a new centre that will feature robotics and high-tech rehab techniques.

# Construction-union dollars help build hospital expansion

## Job site lotteries help raise \$2.5M for new centre at Glenrose

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Trades workers who bought lottery tickets for charity on Alberta construction sites will see their money go toward a new facility that will use robotics, virtual-reality simulations and other high-tech treatments to rehabilitate disabled or injured patients.

The Building Trades of Alberta Charitable Foundation announced Thursday that it is donating \$1 million to the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital for its Courage Centre, which is under construction and set to open in the fall.

Three affiliated unions — the Inter-

cil of Carpenters and Allied Workers; and the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 488 — are also donating \$500,000 each, for a total of \$2.5 million.

Ron Harry, president of the Building Trades of Alberta's charity arm, said the Courage Centre was selected for funding because it will serve a broad section of society, from kids to seniors and car-crash and workplace-accident victims to stroke patients.

"It gets these folks back into their communities quicker," he said. "We looked at that and said, 'This helps all Albertans, this helps our members and helps them get rehabilitated in a quick and efficient manner.'"

The \$4-million facility, now named the Building Trades of Alberta Cour-

robotics to help children and adult patients relearn how to walk and computer simulations that can help stroke victims test their abilities in a safe virtual environment.

For cardiac patients, teleconferencing technology will allow them to be assessed from long distances away.

Other hubs will assist in orthopedic, brain-injury and geriatric rehabilitation.

"Rehabilitation for a patient can be a very arduous process," said Dr. Ted Purcell, chairman of the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation. "With some of the equipment we're bringing in, it makes it more of a positive experience for them and, in turn, will certainly improve patient outcomes."

# Foundation's donations in past five years total \$5M

## REHAB

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"When you're being rehabilitated, would you rather just do squats or would you rather be standing at the top of a ski-jump hill?" said Purcell, a veterinarian whose children were cared for at the Glenrose.

The Courage Centre will also perform research in rehabilitation medicine.

Thursday's donation will go toward construction costs and equipping the centre with the state-of-the-art technology, he said.

The Building Trades of Alberta represents more than 60,000 members in 16 affiliated unions and 22 locals. Its charitable foundation sets up Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission-approved lotteries at job sites and selects recipient charities, Harry said. Over the past

five years, it's contributed more than \$5 million back into the community.

Revenue to the foundation is based on the number of volunteer-run lotteries and construction projects that allow the lotteries on-site.

"Our contractors and our clients that those contractors work for, they have to embrace this because we have to run this on-site and it's very complicated."

The charity revenue stream also depends on the economy and how much construction is going on. Projects such as the Shell upgrader site, where up to 7,000 people are working, and the Capital Power Keephills site, with up to 2,000 workers, along with smaller construction sites have helped bring in lottery revenues for the foundation despite the recession, Harry said.

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