

Glengarda goes green

\$5.5-million building good for kids and the environment, official says

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Glengarda Child and Family Services received a \$5.5-million grant from the province Wednesday for its new energy efficient building, which is currently under construction. Against the backdrop of pickup trucks and construction vans, MPPs Sandra Pupatello (Liberal — Windsor West) and Dwight Duncan (Liberal — Windsor St. Clair) were on hand to make the announcement.

The 30,000-square-foot building is located on the Western Campus of Windsor Regional Hospital.

"It's a building we can all be proud of," said Mark Donlon, executive director at Glengarda. "It'll allow us to serve needy children better than we already do."

Funding for Glengarda's new building came from \$37 million earmarked by the McGuinty government for the expansion and upgrading of facilities that serve children, youth and families.

Each year, Glengarda provides ser-

RELOCATION PLANS

Glengarda Child and Family Services relocated to the Western Campus of Windsor Regional Hospital in 1997, moving from its original site on Riverside Drive East. Because of pending demolition of outdated buildings and construction of a mental health facility, Glengarda had to relocate its operations to a former linen facility.

— Ontario government

vices to about 1,000 children with social, emotional, learning and behavioural problems, said Donlon.

He said the new building will feature larger rooms to allow for more individualized activity, special rooms for play and relaxation therapy, and more green space and paved surfaces for outdoor play.

The new facility will also help Glengarda better deliver its Supervised Access Program, which provides court-ordered visitation between children and their parents, he said.



TOUR: Architect Joseph Passa, right, gives MPPs Dwight Duncan and Sandra Pupatello a tour of the Glengarda Child and Family Services building Wednesday. *Star photo: Dan Janisse*

Its existing home is crowded and outdated. Sections of the building are being demolished as the site at the

Western hospital campus is redeveloped.

Donlon said the larger building will serve more families and reduce wait times.

Not only is this building good for the children, it's also good for the environment, said Donlon.

Architect Joseph Passa said the facility is 75 per cent more energy efficient than the standards required by the Ontario Building Code.

This will save \$34,000 annually in energy costs, he said.

In addition, the facility will feature a green roof with more than 9,600 plants.

Unlike asphalt roofs, which reflect heat back into the environment, green roofs help keep buildings cool and combat global warming, said Passa.

"This (facility) should be a beacon to everyone in the province," said Duncan, who is Ontario's Energy Minister. "Investments like this will ensure that Windsor is on the leading edge."

Glengarda's new \$5.5-million digs are expected to be ready by November, and Donlon said he is excited to relocate into a building that is designed for kids.

"It'll be wonderful to move into a structure that has that end in mind," he said.