

Glengarda goes green

Agency's building ranks high for energy efficiency

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Featuring an environmentally friendly "green roof" and a host of other features making it the most energy-efficient building of its kind in Ontario, the renovated Glengarda Child and Family Services building was officially opened Friday.

Located in a former hospital linen building at the Windsor Regional Hospital's western campus, the 32,000-square-foot facility provides services to children and families dealing with mental illness.

The renovation project was four

years in the making and cost \$5 million, funded by the province. Construction started in March of last year and the building has been occupied since January.

The building is rated to be 64.4 per cent more energy efficient than one designed to meet the current building code, and will save \$34,000 per year in energy costs based on current rates.

"It is wonderful to have been in office long enough ... to see this place open," said Windsor West MPP Sandra Pupatello.

"I know it's going to serve you well in the years to come," added Peter Steckinreiter, regional director of the

ministry of children and youth services who drove from London for ribbon cutting ceremony.

"It's amazing what this building has been turned into," said Brian Chillman, chairman of the board of Windsor Regional Hospital.

Just as important as its environmental features, the new centre will be able to meet the changing needs of its clients, said Tony Gualtieri, Glengarda's board chairman.

Architect Joe Passa showed guests the 9,000-square-foot roof which is mostly covered with grass and plants. He said the roof will help cool the building in the summer, reducing air

conditioning costs, because heat from the sun will be dissipated by evaporation. By next summer, birds will be nesting on the roof, he predicted. "We're bringing nature back into our buildings."

Glengarda was founded in 1935 by the Ursuline Order of nuns, and in 1994 was incorporated as a non-profit agency. It moved to the western campus of Windsor Regional Hospital in 1997.

It provides various services, including day treatment and intervention programs.

In the past fiscal year, 975 children and their families used the services funded by the United Way and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.