



JAMES BAY GENERAL HOSPITAL **PROFILE**

James Bay General Hospital is the most northern Provincial Hospital in Ontario. It provides services along the western shores of James Bay with hospital wings/sites serving the communities of Attawapiskat and Fort Albany and a clinic in Moosonee.

The James Bay General Hospital was incorporated on September 3, 1971; having evolved from the private hospital system operated by the Catholic Hospitals of James Bay. Therefore 2007 marks the 36th year that James Bay General Hospital has been providing health care to the people of the James Bay Area. The Hospital operates under the provisions of the Public Hospitals Act.

In 1903 the 1st (Private Mission) hospital in Fort Albany was established by the Grey Nuns. The 1st maternity, medical and surgical (private) hospital (Saint Anne's) was established subsequently in Fort Albany by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation in 1951 on the site of the original hospital. The present hospital building was built in 1985.

In 1951 the 1st hospital in Attawapiskat (Saint Mary's Private Hospital) was established by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation. The present hospital building was built in 1984.

In 1949 the 1st hospital in Moosonee was established by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation. The Moosonee Assumption Private Hospital was a 25 bed facility and licenced to begin operation on January 19, 1949. It was built by the mission brothers and was run by the Grey Nuns. This hospital burned down July 2, 1969 and was not replaced. The present Moosonee Health Centre was opened October 6, 1994 and replaced an aging clinic that had provided health services.

The James Bay General Hospital carries the legacy of a hospital system that has been providing health services to the James Bay Area for 105 years. It is a legacy that the people and especially the patients appreciate greatly. It is also one that the Board and Staff can be justifiably proud of.

The Hospital is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors with 14 members representing the communities served. The Board and Staff are dedicated to improving the health status of the people living in this remote and scenic part of Ontario.

SERVICES

The catchment population for the James Bay Area totals 11,000 people.

The hospital wings (sites) in Attawapiskat and Fort Albany provide inpatient (acute and chronic care), outpatient and 24 hour emergency services. The Moosonee Health Centre provides outpatient and 24 hour emergency services. It also provides 24 hour ambulance dispatch.

The James Bay Ambulance Service provides pre-hospital care in Moosonee, Moose Factory, Fort Albany and Attawapiskat. A Regional Mental Health program serves all communities in the James Bay Area.

A strong link is in place with the Weeneebayko General Hospital located on Moose Factory Island, 3 miles from Moosonee. Physician services for all JBGH sites are provided from Weeneebayco General Hospital and this largely Federally funded Hospital also provides in patient services for Moosonee and is the Regional Referral Hospital for the James Bay Coast. Physician visits are provided to Attawapiskat, Fort Albany and Moosonee. Referral services and tertiary care beyond Weeneebayko General Hospital is provided by Kingston General Hospital and the Timmins and District Hospital. A charter aircraft provides services to Kingston for entitled aboriginal patients requiring diagnostic tests and specialist care. Many Specialists also visit the area to provide services on-site in the communities.

The communities of Peawanuck and Kashachewan while serviced primarily by others do come into the James Bay General Hospital service from time to time.

The characteristics of the operating environment which include relative isolation, wide geography, transportation challenges and housing shortages are unique challenges faced by JBGH relative to other Ontario hospitals as it tries to deliver these services.

ACCESS

Moosonee is serviced only by rail and air year round.

Moose Factory is serviced from Moosonee by an ice road across the river in winter and by boat service in summer. A helicopter service operates during ice freeze-up in the fall and ice breakup in the spring.

Fort Albany is serviced only by air year round (subject to weather) and by an ice road (2-4 hrs drive one way) from Moosonee for perhaps 2 months in the winter. There is limited barge access from Moosonee during the summer.

Attawapiskat is serviced only by air year round (subject to weather) and by an ice road (4-6 hrs drive one way) from Moosonee for perhaps 2 months in the winter. There is limited barge access from Moosonee in summer.

STAFF ACCOMMODATION

The lack of local housing stock requires that JBGH acquire and maintain a large housing stock. It provides and maintains 63 housing units as follows:

Moose Factory - 4 buildings with 5 units

Moosonee - 14 buildings with 22 units

Fort Albany - 9 buildings with 16 units

Attawapiskat - 12 buildings with 20 units.

TRANSPORTATION

Moving supplies is logistically complex as they often have to be shipped by rail to Moosonee, repackaged, and then shipped by air to the other locations. JBGH has to either rent warehousing space or acquire its own and be responsible for its up-keep and maintenance. Logistics services can be expensive. Trans-shipping costs add to the basic cost of the supplies and equipment needed to operate the programs and services.

FACILITIES

Moose Factory

Ambulance Base

Housing units (5)

MOOSONEE

Ambulance Base

Medical Clinic

Mental Health Unit

Administrative building

Housing units (22)

FORT ALBANY

Ambulance Base

Hospital Wing

Housing units (16)

ATTAWAPISKAT

Ambulance Base

Hospital Wing

Housing units (20)

July 9, 2007