

Algoma Manor – Thessalon

SalDan General Contractors builds \$12.2M regional nursing home with northern Ontario trades



STAFF WRITER – Northern Ontario Construction News

Work is complete at Algoma Manor, a new regional nursing home in Thessalon, and residents will be all moved in by November 1. The \$12.2 million facility has been long in coming and will be a welcome addition to the community.

Since October 2002, when the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) announced the redevelopment of nursing homes across Ontario, Algoma Manor has struggled with design options and funding, finally settling on a new stand-alone facility. SalDan General Contractors based in Sault. Ste. Marie received the construction contract.

Clifford Orr, assistant project manager with SalDan, said the new wood and steel building is designed to address the needs of staff and residents while providing the feeling of a home, not that of an “institution.”

“The old facility had outlived its usefulness,” Orr said. “This was a great opportunity to create something new and ensure the residents had a beautiful and comfortable place to live.”

The new manor is designed with more privacy and comfort for residents, offering semi-private rooms with ensuites; a step above the previous facility’s four-person rooms and communal washrooms. The floor design is also more social and engaging, split so the business area is at one end and the living portion at the other, mimicking a small city corridor. The intent is to make trips to the salon or other common areas more of an outing.

Three extensive activity rooms will host a variety of



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SalDan Algoma Manor

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programs, including quilting, pickling and baking. An on-site chapel will serve the spiritual and social needs of residents through services and special events.

The main entrance leads to a generous sitting area, reception area and tuck shop with the chapel and an interaction centre nearby.

Two sections of rooms occupy the main floor, with the third upstairs. Halls are wide and plenty of open space provides ease of movement, opportunities for social interaction and light. Algoma Manor has dining rooms, each serving a separate bank of rooms, with plenty of natural light from many windows. Resident rooms are also bright with natural light.

Colour schemes have been chosen for their influence on residents and sections have been colour-coded to facilitate navigation through the building.



gation through the building.

Orr says a secure internal courtyard allows residents access to the outdoors in a safe and secure environment. Rocks retrieved through the initial dig were utilized for landscaping in the inner courtyard and on the external grounds.

“There is a dry river bed in the indoor open-air courtyard and an open air gazebo outdoors so there are plenty of opportunities for residents to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors comfortably and safely,” he said.

Orr says the new building is energy efficient and has a large standby generator in the event of power failures. The final step, just under construction, is an enclosed bridge linking the manor with the adjacent

hospital.

Algoma Manor board chair Donna Latulippe says: “I feel this project and construction have been a success. It has been a very short timeline with the first anniversary of construction on August 5th and the move in date of residents on November 1st. Within the whole redevelopment project there have only been two changes, and everything has gone very well.”

Orr says SalDan relied mostly on northern Ontario trade contractors because of their accessibility and proximity to the project.



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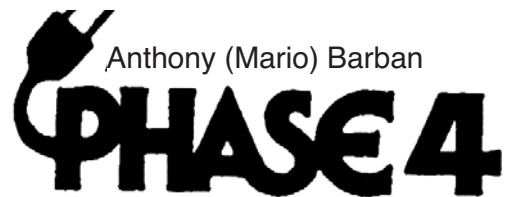
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We are proud to be part of the team working at the Algoma Manor Retirement Home!



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