

# Community Comes Good For Burn Care Unit

A contingent of Guyanese from Toronto travelled to Guyana to witness the opening of a spanking new Burn Care Unit at the Georgetown Public Hospital.

The unit is a six-bed suite housed in a new building located in the hospital compound.

While the building was built by funds provided by the Canadian International Development Agency, the Burn Care Unit was made possible by a superb effort by the Guyanese community here in the GTA.

Speaking to Graphic News from his Richmond Hill office, Guyanese-born Harry Harakh, a professional accountant, stated that the project has been in the making for over two years.

"It has been a total community effort here in the GTA," Harakh said.

The driving force is the Guyana Burn Care Unit Team, with Harry's wife Pamela as the chair of



Pamela Harakh and Janet Jagan at the Georgetown opening of the Burn Care Unit

DeBarros, Sherman Delsol, and Harry Harakh.

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This was a large undertaking that entailed the retrofitting of the 35,000 square foot unit, as well as the supply of equipment, pharmaceutical supplies, and the training of professional staff in Guyana. All this was conceived and carried out by the community here in the GTA.

Harakh said that the project received considerable help from the Sunnybrook Hospital, which donated equipment and medical expertise.

So far the Burn Care Unit Team has raised over \$150,000 to cover everything including ongoing cost for training etc.

Harakh said that it is important for the community to know that the facility is a free access facility. "It will be free to all, based on severity of injury. People will not be pushed aside because they have no clout or power to get the service they deserve. We insisted that it must not be used for aesthetic surgery, but only for the purpose for which it was designed. That is, for burn victims regardless of social status."

## Burns Care Unit reports first patient responding well

THE Burns Care Unit, established at Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) last year October, admitted its first patient last January 23.

Reporting on her, GPHC said the 72-year-old woman, from Soesdyke/Linden Highway, is responding well to treatment for first, second and

and suction apparatus.

The release said the unit is the first of its kind in the Caribbean and is run by a staff complement of 14 professional

nurses and one nursing assistant.

In addition to their professional training, they were trained in the care of burnt patients by American and Canadian specialists in the field, the statement said.