A tribute to Nora-Frances Henderson

Peter Greiter and Ed Macneil from HHS’ Engineering Department contributed to the construction of the Nora-Frances Henderson display at the Henderson.

Staff, patients and visitors at Henderson General Hospital are now able to view a permanent tribute display built to honour the name and legacy of Nora-Frances Henderson. The display, which is located on Level 1 of the hospital between the main visitor elevator banks, is titled, “A Life of Service” and is the product of collaborative efforts between community members and Hamilton Health Sciences staff and volunteers.

In June 2008, a committee was formed with a goal to create a museum-quality display in memory of the late Nora-Frances Henderson and to commemorate the rich history of the hospital as it has evolved since its conception nearly a century ago.
The display features a linear photo timeline of illuminated light boxes that chronicle the transformation of the hospital from its original construction in 1917, progressing through the decades and beyond to the future state of the hospital as it will exist in 2010.

At the centre of the display is an autobiographical video detailing the life of Nora-Frances Henderson, which was created and generously donated by HISstory + HERitage – a multimedia exhibition space located on James St. North that is dedicated to celebrating the lives of the men and women who have helped to shape the city of Hamilton.

Other design elements include: an impressive maple wood finish wall with decorative reveals that was custom-built by Peter Greiter and Ed Macneil from HHS’ Engineering Department; a digitally reproduced painting of Nora-Frances by artist Frank Panabaker; and a poignant quote eloquently written in 1931 by Nora-Frances herself in the final scene of her theatrical production, *A Pageant of Motherhood*.

“Set your feet upon the way, lift your eyes to the hills, the future is an untrodden road that awaits your footprints upon it; the future is beyond the sunset and the dawn – it is my gift to you, the gift of Old Father Time, whose sands run on and may not be stayed – Go – I shall ever be with you.”