

Brace yourselves: CEO

KAREN ROBINET
Chatham This Week

have been working to renovate and furnish the Victoria Ave. facility.

In opening the evening, board chair Wayne McLellan told those in attendance, "it's hard to express how we feel because of your efforts."

And, even though the doors have not opened at the centre yet, Susan McLellan said partnerships are already being made within the community to ensure the facility will be able to provide a large range of programming and services, at no cost to the consumer.

Markland said she had been "inspired deeply by what I have seen in the home that you have built."

She said it's clear the entire community has rallied behind the project, and said, "you're on the thresh-

old of being very busy."

Markland said since opening its doors in 2000, the Wellspring facility has outgrown its space in an older home similar to the one which has been outfitted for the MMM centre.

"Chatham is a model for how the rest of Canada can meet this desperate need for non-medical supportive care for people with cancer," she said.

Having toured the local centre on Victoria Ave., Markland, who is a cancer survivor herself, said, "I'm just bursting with inspiration."

Citing statistics which indicate the incidence of cancer will rise 70% between 2000 and 2015, Markland said demand for support will

continue to rise, in large part because of an aging population which is pushing up the cancer statistics.

"We cannot keep up with the need," she said, adding the London centre has opened up a satellite office in Stratford.

"It wouldn't surprise me if a couple of years down the road you get requests from outlying communities to open satellites," she told the local board.

"You are at the threshold of something profoundly important for Chatham-Kent," said Markland.

In offering her thanks to the volunteers, Susan McLellan said, "we never imagined that through this journey with cancer and grief that there would be hope."



Karen Robinet/Chatham This Week

BMO Bank of Montreal has donated \$1,400 to the Myles Miracle Mission CanAssist Wellness Centre through its volunteer grant program. Pictured here are: Mary Jane Horvath, BMO commercial accounting manager (left) and Robin McLellan, a board member of the wellness centre. The money will be used to purchase resources for the centre's library.