

LOCAL

Health along Talbot Trail

Rehab open house at hospital

By TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

It's a grand opening with an exciting difference.

Not only is it a one-stop, multi-disciplinary rehabilitation centre, Talbot Trail Physiotherapy has the distinction of having two young medical specialists on staff who bring a wide variety of skills to their new location on the ground floor in St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital.

As the centre prepares for its grand opening, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday in their 22,000-square-foot (2,050-square-metre) home, it will be their opportunity to offer public tours through their spacious facility, which includes a heated therapy pool.

"We invite the public to come and see everything we have to offer," enthusiastically co-owner and physiotherapist Chris Streib, "including all of our services and products."

In addition to the fully equipped pool, gym and treatment areas, Talbot Trail boasts an impressive staff of physiotherapists,

massage therapists and kinesiologist.

Added to that lineup is orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Tony Cervinka and rheumatologist Dr. Suzanne Leaf.

"Dr. Cervinka is coming to us with a wide variety of orthopedic skills which is quite uncommon," noted Streib. "He is able to do a multitude of fracture repairs and surgeries which is quite exciting for this community because they aren't going to have to travel to London.

"Dr. Leaf is the first rheumatologist ever in Elgin county and that's a big draw for the community, because she wanted to work in a multi-disciplinary clinic."

In July, Streib assumed possession of the existing rehab centre in the hospital and immediately began renovations.

He opened his first clinic in Aylmer in 2002 and followed that with his initial St. Thomas clinic in 2006, located on Wellington Street, across from Elgin Mall.

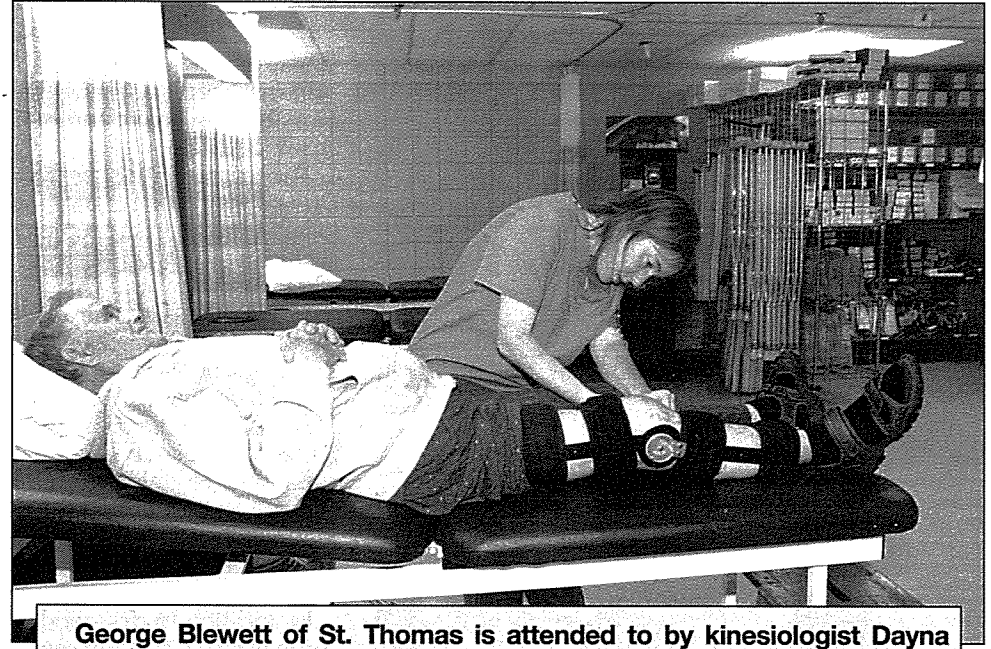
"This was an expansion

plan," explains Streib. "This space (in the hospital) was coming available and I had volunteered and worked here as a student back in the mid-90s."

The long-term goal, says Streib, is to evolve the facility into a regional centre.

"A musculoskeletal centre of excellence," adds Streib. "So when people do get injured, they know right away Talbot Trail is the centre they need to go to."

For more information on the open house or their full array of rehab services, call 519-637-7171.



George Blewett of St. Thomas is attended to by kinesiologist Dayna Cartier in one of the treatment areas at Talbot Trail Physiotherapy, located on the ground floor of St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital. (T-J photo)