

Halton Healthcare CEO to retire in April

By **DAVID LEA**
Metroland Media Group

In every career there comes a time to move along and for Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) President and CEO John Oliver that time will be April 30, 2014,

Oliver, whose time with HHS dates back to 1990, announced his impending retirement Wednesday.

A committee has been formed to oversee a recruitment process for his replacement.

"It really has been an honour to serve the communities of Halton in these hospital operations for 23 years. It has been a long, long career run for me in the Halton hospital grouping," he said.

"I guess for me there has to be a time to go and I think the organization really is optimally positioned right now for that change. There is an incredibly strong senior team here that has some very effective individuals who are working on the projects and the operations that are quite able to accomplish and maintain both the operations and our big capital projects while a search happens."

Oliver said the HHS board is also very strong, engaged, collaborative and understanding of the hospitals and their needs.

"While I clearly have my own personal reasons for deciding to retire and move on with my career I really did look at Halton Healthcare and that it is sustainable during

this time of transition," he said.

"I think it is a really optimal time. We are still about two years from the new Oakville hospital opening so it does give time for a new CEO to come in and understand the operations and what has to get done."

Oliver had little to say about what he will be doing after April 30.

He noted his future would probably include public service work, but said he hasn't given any thought as to what capacity.

Oliver's career with HHS hospitals began in 1990 when he was executive director of Georgetown Hospital. In 1995 he became president and CEO of Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH).

In 1998, he was appointed president and CEO of what is now HHS—the result of the amalgamation of the Milton and Oakville hospitals. In 2006, Oliver was instrumental in the transfer of the Georgetown Hospital to HHS. During this time, Oliver also oversaw the application for long-term care beds in Halton Hills and Oakville that resulted in the development of two long-term care centres. Oliver also oversaw major physical plant ex-



JOHN OLIVER

pansions and enhancements at OTMH.

"During his tenure at HHS John provided the organization with exceptional strategic leadership that ultimately translated to better healthcare services for each of the communities that we serve," said Judy Wilson, HHS board chair. "From long-term care beds for the elderly in Oakville to the stabilization and growth of our obstetrical programs at our northern sites and the provision of regional services outside of our immediate catchment area—there are many, many people who have and will continue to benefit from the foresight, vision and drive of John Oliver."

A champion of community healthcare and providing services closer to home Oliver was instrumental in the introduction and expansion of many clinical programs in all three communities including the introduction of MRI services, in-patient rehabilitation program and the HHS dialysis and diabetes programs.

Oliver said some of the things he is most proud of have taken place more recently.

"The last three or five years dedicated to capital renewal is probably the peak achievement for me. The new Oakville hospital...(It's been great) seeing that come up out of the ground from what was a very hairy vision back about eight to 10 years ago. Just the chance to watch the renewal of the hospitals at all three of our sites has been a major accomplishment I will remain quite proud of as I go on."

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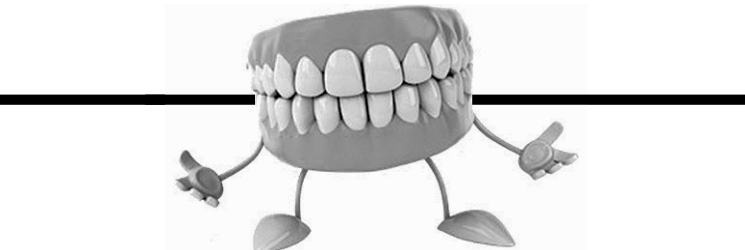
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