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Have your say on multi-million dollar request

Town councillors want to take the public's pulse before dealing with a \$5.4-million request from Halton Healthcare Services to help pay for a CT scanner and emergency room expansion at the Georgetown hospital.

John Oliver, President and CEO of Halton healthcare Services, which runs the Georgetown hospital, said there is a "clinical urgency" for a quick response from Council,

and that the \$12.1-million projects will not go ahead without Council's support and money.

A string of hospital boosters and staff made impassioned pleas for Town money at Monday's council meeting, including Dr. Wei Chu, who said that 1,500 Acton and Georgetown residents are sent out of town for CT scanning, and that a CT scanner is no longer a luxury, but as essential as a stethoscope.

Chief of Emergency, Dr. Justin Busse, said without the ER expansion, the hospital's performance – including the shortest wait time and fastest admission time in Ontario – will deteriorate and affect patient care.

Mayor Rick Bonnette, noting that it wasn't a usual "everyday request," suggested they begin the January 24 public meeting by telling people the impact on their taxes if the multi-million dollar request was granted.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Fourth Line traffic concerns prompt Town investigation.
See Page 3

"Sober second look" at suggested arena debt proposal.
See Page 7



Scale of Rockwood development 'scares' Guelph/Eramosa politician.
See Page 8



MILESTONE DONATION: Acton's John Hughson donated blood for the 100th time on Monday at the Canadian Blood Services clinic at Acton arena/community centre. Hughson said he donates blood because it gives him a "good feeling." – Submitted photo. See story on Page 3

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