

# Arnott seeks answer on hospital grant

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noting that Thursday afternoons are usually used as a travel day for MPPs returning to their home ridings. Still he insisted the vote should have been non-partisan, and blamed the Liberals for voting along party lines.

"It was clearly a whipped vote on their part," he said.

He rejected a suggestion his bill was defeated to avoid opening floodgates for other MPPs seeking immediate dollars for their hospitals.

According to the Hansard record of the proceedings, MPPs that voted against the bill, stated politicians should not be involved with hospital planning, and that Arnott's wording of "immediate" provoked a sense of preferential treatment for Wellington-Halton Hills residents. The Liberals MPPs who spoke stated that despite Wellington-Halton Hills being a Conservative riding, it has received more than its fair share of health dollars per capita.

In 2007, Georgetown Hospital received approval for a CT scanner, but cannot put it into place until approximately \$10 million renovation/expansion project happens.

"The current emergency department was designed in size to accommodate 14,000 visits per year, yet in the last fiscal year, the hospital saw 32,800 visits, well over twice the number for which it was designed," said Arnott.

In August, Arnott, hospital staff and senior Ministry of Health staff met to discuss a Ministry small capital grant to expedite the project— with no definite promise given.



MPP  
TED ARNOTT

"But in order to plan responsibly for the project, the hospital needs to know where it might be in the queue. We know that there are dozens of proposed hospital projects in dozens of communities across Ontario," said Arnott.

"Too many projects are still waiting, seemingly indefinitely," he said, referring to it as a logjam. "It's time the McGuinty Liberals finally disclosed exactly which hospitals are on its list, how long they've been waiting and when they can expect to see progress."

Arnott even resorted to filing a Freedom of Information application to obtain that information— he's still waiting for a response.

Arnott continued pressure in the Legislature on Tuesday this time questioning Premier Dalton McGuinty, who answered, "If (Arnot) has any specific advice with respect to his community, obviously, that's the kind of thing that we want to consider."

Bonnette said the capital dollars required for the expansion to the Georgetown Hospital is an important issue, that warranted more than a dozen local politicians, hospital board members, volunteers and hospital CEO John Oliver making the trek to witness the debate. They included Acton Councillor Jon Hurst and Hospital Foundation board chair Laurent Thibault, treasurer Graeme Goebelle and vice-chair Rick Johnson.

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