

Town urged to fund hospital project

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size. Oliver said theirs and MPP Ted Arnot's lobbying over the past few years has made little dent in the 10-year waiting queue for money at the Ministry.

Compared to similar HHS requests made to other Halton municipal councils for contributions to their hospitals, Oliver called this is a "modest" request.

But he added, "This is not my hospital... this is your hospital. I would estimate 80 to 85 per cent of your residents would be in and out of the diagnostic imaging and emergency departments during the year. They're heavily used. ... We could have stayed quiet and continued to pursue the funding from the Ministry or we could make this special request of council."

The proposal includes a 14,000 sq. ft. addition, housing a new emergency department and a renovated 4,000 sq. ft. section of the current hospital, allowing all diagnostic equipment to be in the same section.

"No longer will people will have to walk through the bowels of the hospital to have a bone density scan done," said Dr. Jeff Sutherland, Associate Chief of Staff. "The redevelopment of the emergency department will enable us to deal with an ever-increasing volume of emergency patients. During my career this volume has doubled without significant change in the emergency department's layout."

To move quicker on this project, the hospital wants to go with a joint community and HHS-funded project:

- Town of Halton Hills contributes \$4.546 million
- HHS revenue and capital— \$2.4M
- Georgetown Hospital Foundation launches a \$5M fundraising campaign
- Georgetown Hospital Volunteer Association— \$250,000.

In order to get things moving in time for a 2012 construction season, Oliver requested a Town answer before March, but Mayor Rick Bonnette intimated the CEO would have his answer before then.

Council approved a motion to host a special public meeting in conjunction with the Monday, Jan. 24 council meeting to allow members of the public to hear the

hospital presentation, and Town Treasurer Ed DeSousa's suggestions on how the Town could chip in their share. The public would be asked to provide feedback, so council can make an informed decision, said Bonnette.

The Town's website will also include the hospital presentation made this week, and possibly a vote button and comment form.

Bonnette said the public is also welcome to e-mail their comments to all members of the council. It's important the public knows what impact on their taxes this could mean, the mayor said.

"I think all of us around this table are behind this but it would be helpful to have public feedback," said Ward 3 Council-

lor Moya Johnson. "We really need a CT scanner in this community."

The current diagnostic services are located throughout the Georgetown Hospital. In 2010, approximately 1,500 patients were transferred from Georgetown hospital to other hospitals for CT scans. Over 500 of those were emergency patients who required a scan for diagnosis. It does not include doctor referrals for their patients in the community, but Oliver said those are significant numbers.

The Emergency Department is designed to serve 14,000 visits a year, but it is now seeing 32,800.

"The Georgetown Emergency Department is an incredibly efficient operation, which sees more patients per ER bed than any hospital in Ontario," said Dr. Justin Busse, Director of the Emergency Department, noting the five physicians are working flat-out. No more efficiencies can be wrung out of the building and its staff and he fears their current high provincial performance on wait times and admission times will begin to deteriorate.

"I implore you for your support," said Dr. Wei Chu, co-chief of Family Medicine, "not because we trying a build a shiny new waiting room or to show off new technology but because the redevelopment before you tonight will help us provide the essential services that the doctors and nurses need to treat our most critical and most vulnerable patients."



JOHN OLIVER

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The Regional Municipality of Halton
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JOIN THE CONVERSATION ABOUT HALTON REGION!

PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON HALTON'S STRATEGIC WORKPLAN

On Saturday, January 29 add your voice to an important conversation about Halton Region. Meet members of the Halton Region Citizens' Reference Panel, learn about the Region, and share what matters most to your community. This is an exciting time and we want to hear from you!

Date: Saturday, January 29, 2011

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville (Auditorium)

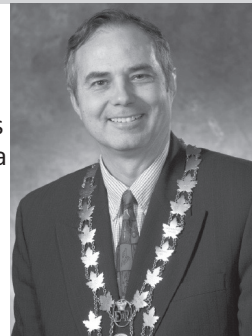
For more information or to RSVP for the Public Roundtable call 1-800-369-7136 or visit halton.ca/strategicworkplan.

It's not too late to get a flu shot

Halton Region's seasonal influenza immunization clinics wrap up this month with a final community clinic on Thursday, January 20, 2011 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville. Halton Region has held over 20 immunization clinics throughout the Region since early November. Free seasonal influenza immunization is also available through family doctors' offices.

Remember, you can help to protect yourself and your family during flu season, and all the time, by:

- Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol based hand rub.
- Coughing and sneezing into your sleeve or a disposable tissue.
- Staying home when you are sick.



Gary Carr
Regional Chair

Halton Regional Meeting Schedule

January 24 Budget Review - 9:30 a.m.
January 26 Regional Council - 10:00 a.m.

Meetings can be viewed online at www.halton.ca.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you will have an accessibility or accommodation need at a Halton Region hosted event or meeting.

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