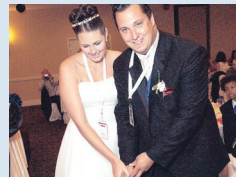


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THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

THURSDAY,
 January 27, 2011

Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper

Funding for hospital expansion on hold

*Large audience
 hears mayor will
 now lobby health
 ministry for cash*

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**
 Staff Writer



More than 200 people crammed the Civic Centre Monday night to hear the Town will now lobby the Province directly for funding for the Georgetown Hospital expansion project.

Photo by Cynthia Gamble

gument includes an exploding Brampton population with plans to place 100,000 people on Halton Hills's border, and it's

obvious they are going to put a lot more stress on Georgetown hospital, he said. As well, the Province enforced the Places

to Grow plan that will mean the Town's population will also grow by 20,000.

The mayor suggested council's decision meeting on the funding request will be held in two to four weeks.

HHS needs an answer before its March hospital board meeting in order to get things moving in time for the 2012 construction season.

Usually Ministry dollars pay for 90 per cent of the cost of hospital construction projects, but HHS came to the Town for a financial contribution to the project after lobbying the Ministry for years for approval. When told that they are in the same boat as more than 80 other hospitals in the province looking for money, they began to look at different ways to fund the project.

HHS CEO John Oliver said this project is one of HHS's top priorities and cannot wait another seven to eight years, with no guarantee, for provincial funding approval.

It was time to look at alternate funding, he said.

The costs would be divided like this:

- A \$4.546 million contribution from the Town—a dedicated special levy on property taxpayers. Two possible scenarios: a 10-year loan at 1.9% interest rate—\$6.73/\$100,000 assessment (or \$23.56 a year for 10 years for the average home assessed at \$350,000). Or it can be done over a 15-year loan at 1.4% interest for a \$4.96/\$100,000 of assessment. However, Town Treasurer Ed DeSousa noted that while the 15-year loan would have less immediate impact, residents would be paying more in the long run.

See **COMMUNITY**, pg. 3

Proposed Project Cost Funding	
Georgetown Hospital Foundation Capital Campaign	\$5 Million
Georgetown Hospital Volunteer Association	\$250,000
Halton Healthcare Services revenue & capital	\$2.4 Million
Town of Halton Hills	\$4.546 Million
TOTAL	\$12.196 Million

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