



Provincial Progressive Conservative health critic Christine Elliott, (second from left) toured Georgetown Hospital Monday to discuss funding needs for the hospital's planned renovation. Also taking part in the tour were from left, John Oliver, President & CEO Halton Healthcare Services, Elliott, John Duncan, former Halton Hills councillor, Ted Arnott, MPP Wellington-Halton Hills and Cindy McDonnell, Chief Operating Officer, Georgetown Hospital. Submitted photo

## Hospital 'absolutely' needs CT scanner, says Conservative health critic Elliott

By **LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

Both Ontario PC Party Deputy Leader and Critic to the Minister of Health Christine Elliott and local MPP Ted Arnott intend to push for provincial funding for Georgetown Hospital.

Elliott, MPP for Whitby-Oshawa, and Arnott were in town Monday to discuss funding needs for the hospital's \$12.1 million renovation/expansion.

They met with Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and officials from the hospital where they toured the facility and learned more about the need to expand the ER and provide a space for a CT scanner.

The hospital has asked the Town of Halton Hills to provide \$4.5 million to help fund the project. But the Town hasn't said yet if it will provide the money.

"There is absolutely a need for a CT scanner," said Elliott. "I would venture to say this is one of very few hospitals of this size that does not have one."

She stressed a CT scanner is considered "basic diagnostic equipment."

Elliott said there was also a real need to expand the ER as the number of people using it "has doubled in the last number of years."

She said Arnott brought forward a Private Member's Resolution in the fall highlighting the issues facing Georgetown Hospital, but unfortunately the government voted it down.

"But that doesn't mean we're going to stop doing that advocacy because it's obviously necessary for the hospital to continue to function efficiently. We're going to continue to press the Minister of Health and McGuinty government to make this happen," said Elliott.

Arnott said with the election campaign set for Oct. 6, "there is a chance that the government will decide to set aside additional funds for hospital projects like ours."

"My approach has always been non-partisan from the beginning— to the try to work with the government, work with the minister to advance our issues in ways that will lead to a positive conclusion."

Arnott intends to raise the issue when the legislature resumes this month.

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