

SCOREBOARD

Check out today's section for local house league results

8 PAGES

BACK TO SCHOOL

Look inside for tips on heading back to the classrooms

8 PAGES



www.theIFP.ca

THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

Thursday, September 1, 2011

Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper serving Acton & Georgetown

56 Pages

50 Cents (+GST)

Hospital project gets \$2.6M boost from Province

Minister lauds community's efforts

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

Elation was the prevailing mood at Georgetown Hospital Wednesday morning after Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Deb Matthews announced the government would be contributing up to \$2.6 million—substantially more than was asked for—towards the hospital's renovation project.

The money will go toward building a new emergency department, adding a new specialized space for a CT scanner and upgrading Georgetown Hospital's diagnostic imaging department. The project will also benefit patients by adding up to 14,000 sq. ft. and renovating up to 4,000 sq. ft. of existing hospital space, significantly expanding the emergency department resulting in more treatment spaces, modernizing and enlarging the diagnostic imaging department which includes radiology and ultrasound, and room enhancements to ensure infection prevention and control as well as privacy and security for patients, families and staff.

"I know how important this expansion is to the people in the Georgetown area and I'm proud to see it move forward," said Matthews. "For area residents, these new upgrades will mean faster and better

access to high quality health care services much closer to home."

Her funding announcement was followed by sustained applause and cheers from the crowd filling the Activity Room at the hospital.

"I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for this community coming together," said Matthews.

Halton Healthcare Services wants to spend \$12.19 million on the Georgetown Hospital project. The provincial government was being asked to kick in \$1.9 million and the Town of Halton Hills has agreed to provide \$2.6 million through a levy on taxpayers.

Matthews said the up to \$2.6 million figure was calculated by Ministry staff after working through the proposal determining it would be 35 per cent of the cost to expand the ER department.

"This has to go out to tender...if it comes in less than that would be great," said

Matthews.

When making the announcement Matthews paid tribute to Mayor Rick Bonnette, "for bringing his council into an understanding of how important this is for the community (and) for rallying support from the municipal government to make a major contribution to this."

See **FUNDING**, pg. 3



Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Deb Matthews toured the Georgetown Hospital Emergency Department Wednesday morning with Dr. Don Trant, Medical Director Georgetown Family Practice Program, before announcing (at right) up to \$2.6 million in provincial funding to build a new ER department at the hospital, add a new specialized space for a CT scanner and upgrade its diagnostic imaging department. Funds for the project are also being contributed by the Town of Halton Hills, Georgetown Hospital Foundation, Halton Healthcare Services and Georgetown Hospital Volunteer Association. The minister's announcement was met with applause and cheers. Photo by Lisa Tallyn



HEALTH MINISTER DEB MATTHEWS

Derek Dunphy
REALTOR®
CallDerek.ca

Time to move?
I can help

Johnson Associates
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
REAL ESTATE LTD., BROKERAGE
905-877-5165

Furniture Shouldn't Have Tan Lines!
SILHOUETTE® SHADINGS NOW HAVE UP TO 88% ULTRAVIOLET PROTECTION!

Bergsma's
LIVE IN STYLE

PAINT • WALLPAPER • LIGHTING • HOME DECOR
GEORGETOWN MARKETPLACE MALL 905-877-4193

HunterDouglas

REFINANCING? PURCHASING?

3.39%
5 YR. FIXED CALL FOR DETAILS.

BOB WOODS, Broker

Assured
FINANCIAL SERVICES
Division of IHS&A The Ltd.

(905) 877-1490
360 Guelph St., Georgetown