

Development fees would let growth pay for growth

Future residents and businesses – not existing ones – should pay for construction of new hospitals, hospital renovations and expansions. Halton Hills Council will ask Queen's Park to impose development charges to cover hospital costs, so municipalities don't have to use tax dollars to pay for hospital growth. That happened recently when the Town agreed to contribute \$2.6-million to help pay for a CT scanner, and renovations and expansion of the imaging and emergency departments at Georgetown Hospital.

At the suggestion of Mayor Rick Bonnette, Council passed a resolution, noting one source of revenue that has not been "tapped" to help build new hospitals and for hospital renovations and expansions is development charges – set fees – usually calculated by the square foot or metre – that developers pay municipalities for services like roads, water, libraries, parks and policing.

"With over 100 projects of hospitals throughout Ontario – there's a shortage of money..." Bonnette said, adding with provincial-mandated growth, there will be

even more hospital shortages when there are 2 to 3-million more people living in the GTA by 2031.

Regional/Ward two Councillor Jane Fogal noted the Town and Region, and other municipalities, have been asking for the ability to use development charges for hospitals for years, but the answer has always been no.

She said there's a "certain amount of anger" from the public as growth impacts hospital services, and the simple answer is to "let growth pay for growth."



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COOLING DOWN: Logan Carachi gets a quick cool down after a hot game playing for the Home Hardware Reds last week. Brother Jordan (background) found it very amusing.

- Submitted photo

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