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New hospital for Oakville

By BERNADETTE WARD

Oakville residents are not only getting a new state-of-the-art hospital, they are also getting what they need to keep the cramped and aging Oakville Trafalgar Memorial hospital going in the short-term.

"Despite all the competition for health care dollars, we decided that Oakville needed a new hospital," said Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn.

Flynn, who made the announcement on behalf of Minister of Public Infrastructure and Renewal David Caplan and Minister of Health and Long-term Care George Smitherman, said construction for the new site begins in 2009.

The province has earmarked \$200 million for the new 400-bed facility as an alternative financing and procurement project.

Some see this model as being similar in nature to the public/private partnerships brought in under the Harris Conservatives.

The McGuinty government emphasizes however, that although the construction work will be done by the private sector, the public sector will retain ownership after it's built.

The new facility will provide a full range of services including continuing care, acute care, paediatrics, mental health and surgeries and will have more beds than the existing hospital.

There are also changes coming to Oakville Trafalgar Memorial, most notably an expansion to the maternal child unit. There will be more than \$8 million available for the work slated to begin in 2006/07.

With current and projected growth for the area on an upwards swing and including

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PHOTO BY PETER MCCUSKER

Christina Godbolt one of the Milton organizers of the 25th anniversary Terry Fox Run for Cancer. More photos on page 20

Arnott in bid for Speaker's job

By BERNADETTE WARD

It may be a long shot, but that won't keep Waterloo-Wellington MPP Ted Arnott out of the running to replace the outgoing Speaker of the Legislature that will take place by secret ballot on October 11.

The 15-year veteran will be in the race with Mike Brown, Liberal MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin, competing for the vacancy that will be left when the current Speaker, the Honourable Alvin Curling becomes Canadian Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

"If the vote cuts across party lines it will be tough for a member of the opposition to get elected," said Arnott.

To kick-off his campaign, Arnott has sent

letters of intent to each of the MPPs.

He believes that fairness is crucial and he hopes that members will respect him for what he's tried to do over the years.

"It's important that we have someone in

the Speaker's position that is impartial if the legislation is to function as it should," he said.

Brown, who has served for five consecutive terms and also as the Deputy Speaker, is

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