

Georgetown hospital striving to find new vision

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Georgetown Hospital is striving to find a new vision for the future and still has a long way to go in the difficult process.

Provincial funding cutbacks make planning for the future even more important for the hospital, said hospital CEO Ron Noble.

"In the present economic environment, the organization

needs a clear direction in which we're moving," he said. By prioritizing services based on the new vision, the hospital will be able to avoid a knee-jerk reaction to funding cutbacks, he said.

The hospital has hired consultants Mike Delaney and Maide Yazar of KPMG to assist them during the process. A visioning retreat was held Jan. 11 and 12 during which 45 participants, including board members, hospital staff,

doctors, consumers and community agency representatives discussed the future of the hospital.

The hospital's mission statement is, "as your health care partner, we will enhance the quality of life in our community." The retreat is about trying to figure out how to best fulfill this goal.

The population of Halton Hills is estimated to grow by 17,000 over the next 15 years and an increase in seniors as well as

young families is expected. This means that services geared to these groups will likely receive a higher priority.

When they discussed the needs of this community in the future, the group came up with a very comprehensive list which included services traditionally associated with a hospital like emergency and acute care, but also health promotion, home care and a day care program for the elderly as well as supportive housing for the

elderly. "The hospital can't be all things to all people. We're not resourced to do that. But we can fill a coordinating role in providing those services and create linkages with other providers," Noble said.

A public meeting was held recently as part of the process, and now the consultants are going to write a final report which will be presented to the hospital board at their meeting later this month.

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