



**WILLIAM  
OSLER  
HEALTH  
CENTRE**

# Osler This Month

## Spring 2004 Update

In recent years, William Osler Health Centre has been faced with unprecedented population growth, massive demand for more and more hospital services, and rising health care costs. All these factors have resulted in an unfunded, operating deficit of \$27 million accumulated over several years. The Health Centre has decided to balance the financial operation over the next two years and a task force is working to develop a Recovery Plan to achieve this goal. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is monitoring the process.

As part of the Recovery Plan, inpatient obstetrical and paediatric services at the Georgetown campus are being reorganized to the Brampton site this summer. We will be working jointly with family physicians, nurses and Dr. Selvaratnam Gunaratnam, the obstetrician at the Georgetown campus, to arrange an orderly transition plan for women who are expecting babies over the next few months.

*Services provided to children through ambulatory clinics at the Georgetown campus will continue. And of course in the case of a paediatric emergency, parents should still bring their children to the emergency department at Georgetown.*

There will be no job losses as a result of the above decision. William Osler Health Centre is a single hospital organization with a comprehensive range of hospital services located across multiple and diverse sites. Our Georgetown campus is not a stand-alone hospital. It is an integral element of an integrated network of hospital services within the Osler family. All staff located at the Georgetown campus directly related to this service are being retained. Nursing staff are being offered opportunities to fill other vacancies, whether at Georgetown campus or other sites at Osler.

Area residents will continue to get first-class care at Osler, a recognized leader in children's health. (The hospital sees about 7,000 births each year and is designated a regional children's health centre.)

Over the next two years Osler will be undertaking a number of recovery initiatives that will be implemented across our three campuses. Every department in the hospital is being asked to examine its operations and find ways to maximize efficiency and improve patient care.

As the population served by William Osler Health Centre grows, we will continue to make our case to the government for funding that adequately matches our residents' health needs. In the meantime, we hope you'll give the hospital your support during this period of adjustment.

## Committed to Serving Our Communities Through One Hospital

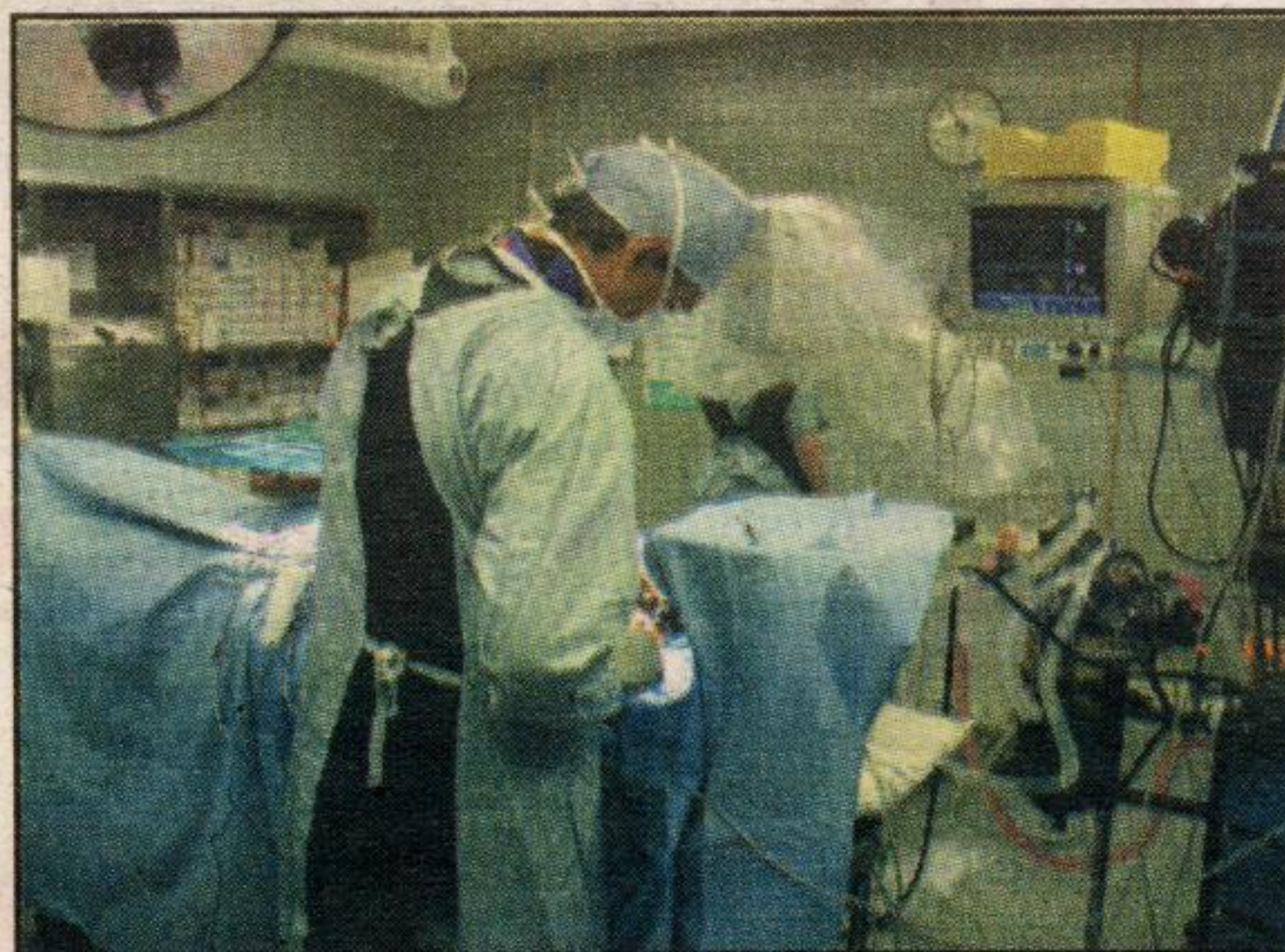
Residents of Halton Hills are in the enviable position of being able to live in a small vibrant community yet still have access to an impressive range of services provided through one hospital - William Osler Health Centre.

When Osler was formed in 1998, the Halton Hills community gained greater access to an array of specialized services, including: oncology (chemotherapy), advanced cardiac care, dialysis, orthopaedic surgery (hip and knee replacements), neonatal intensive care, diagnostic imaging technology (open and closed MRI, CT), and inpatient mental health care.

Transferring or referring patients to these services at another hospital is a complex and often lengthy process. However, since Osler physicians based in Georgetown, Brampton and Etobicoke have privileges at all three campuses, patients can be admitted and referred between sites in a much more timely fashion.

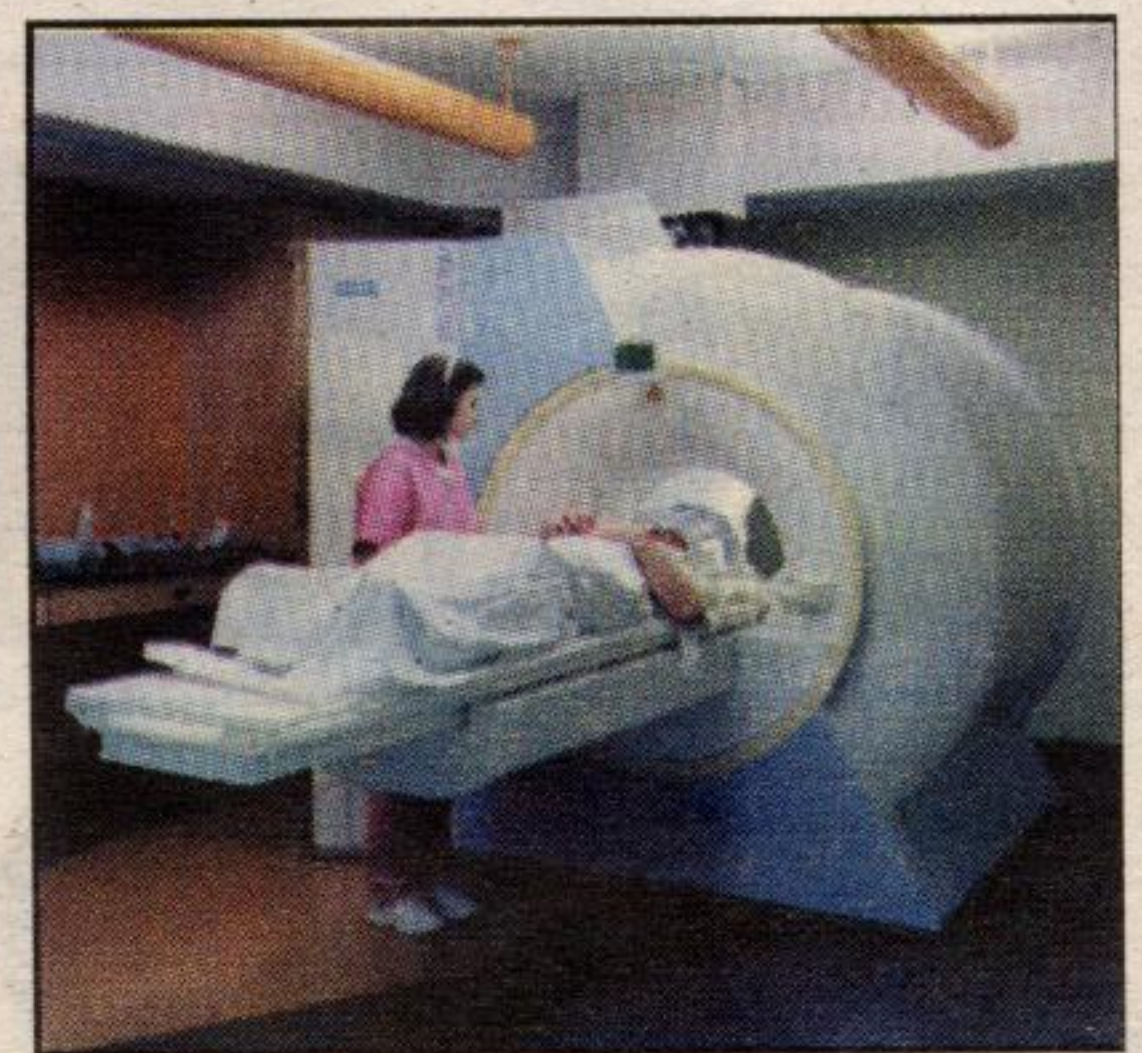


*As a Regional Paediatric Centre, William Osler Health Centre offers a number of health care options to our youngest patients - from intensive care in our Level II and Advanced Level II Special Care Nurseries to inpatient and outpatient care.*



*Osler's Pacemaker Clinic has been in operation since September 2002. We now have the ability to implant single and dual chamber permanent pacemakers.*

All the campuses are linked electronically through a telecommunications network, which means patients experience a smooth continuum of care. Patient health information generated at one campus can be accessed by medical staff at any of the other sites.



*Osler has both an open and closed MRI*

As one of the largest hospitals in Canada, William Osler Health Centre holds a respected position in the health care community and is able to attract and retain the best and brightest health professionals.

We have links with teaching hospitals, such as the Hospital for Sick Children, and medical schools. Osler plays a key role in educating many young family physicians, surgeons and other clinical staff through initiatives such as a surgical training program for students at the University of Toronto and a Critical Care Internship Program for Humber College nursing students.

Osler's size and geographical position in one of the fastest growing regions of Ontario means that we are responsible for providing hospital services to almost a million people. We take this responsibility seriously.

Our goal is to be the best community hospital in Ontario. To this end, we are continually looking for efficient ways to deliver our programs and provide patients with the best quality care at the most reasonable cost.