

Regular hospital visitors to pay a discounted rate

By FANNIE SUNSHINE
The Champion

Regular visitors to Milton District Hospital (MDH) will be able to pay for parking through a discounted rate, board members decided Thursday.

Visitors will be able to purchase 20 tokens for \$30 — which works out to \$1.50 per token — to pay for parking instead of the \$4 flat rate fee, Allan Halls, senior vice-president of Halton Healthcare Services (HHS), told board members during its meeting.

Six meter parking spots will also be designated at the front parking lot for visitors making a quick stop into the hospital.

The fee will be 50 cents to \$1 for 15 to 30 minutes of parking

time.

John Oliver, president and CEO of HHS, told board members he's received a handful of calls regarding the parking fee to be implemented next month.

"The calls have been from people in the community who simply wish for this not to happen. Other staff have received calls saying it makes sense and it's long overdue."

Earlier this month, HHS announced paid parking would be implemented at the Milton site due to forecasted funding shortfalls.

Although the cost of implementing the new parking system — which will include gates, signage and barriers — will cost \$150,000, projected annual revenue is estimated at \$320,000.

Mr. Oliver previously said parking fees will cover the cost of providing, maintaining and administering the parking facilities.

"Any revenue collected above and beyond those expenses will be used to support programs and services at the Milton District Hospital."

An additional 30 parking spaces will be added to the staff parking lot for visitor use. Staff will be deducted for parking fees through payroll.

Volunteers with the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary will continue to park for free at the hospital.

Quarry expansion meeting held in Georgetown Thurs.

The future of Dufferin Aggregates' proposed quarry expansion will be on the line during a meeting of the Niagara Escarpment Commission Thursday.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the 10 a.m. meeting, held at the Halton Hills Council Chambers on Mountainview Road in Georgetown.

Dufferin meeting attracts few

Attendance left something to be desired at a recent Dufferin Aggregates public open house on the proposed quarry expansion.

"I was a bit surprised that there wasn't more people," said Sarah Lowe, Dufferin's property and resource manager. "We want to learn the remaining concerns, try to resolve them and get feedback."

Throughout the four-hour event at Granite Ridge Golf Club last Tuesday, nine neighbouring residents wandered through a series of diagrams, maps and information boards.

Notices about the meeting were distributed to neighbouring residents by Dufferin. The company also advertised the meeting in The Champion.

The meeting was a mandatory requirement of the aggregate extraction licence application process with

the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

"We have the key experts who have advised us on the application here to answer any technical questions which people may have," continued Ms Lowe, adding managers of the existing quarry were also in attendance to answer questions.

"The public has an opportunity to learn anything more about the operation and the proposal that they haven't had a chance to to-date."

Dufferin is currently seeking permission from the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the MNR to expand the existing quarry by 83 hectares to the north.

Several concerns have previously been raised about the quarry expansion, including whether or not a proposed water recharge system designed to prevent de-watering of the surrounding area will work.



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