

# Krantz is among GTA mayors pushing for health-care funding

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
The Champion

Mayor Krantz was among like-minded politicians recently when he attended a meeting of GTA mayors to push for a bigger chunk of provincial health-care funding.

The meeting included mayors and chairs from Halton, Durham, Hamilton, Peel and York who were calling upon the government to provide a greater share of provincial health-care funding to GTA residents to bridge the hospital funding gap.

"We're in it all together," Mr. Krantz told The Champion.

Mr. Krantz said he supported and helped present a resolution that asked for the Ontario government to provide adequate and targeted growth funding for hospitals in high growth regions — such as Milton — as well as reinstate development charges for the building of hospitals.

The resolution also called for the approval of the expansion of Milton District Hospital and the development of a health-care strategy for Ontario's high-growth regions.

The resolution passed easily, Mr. Krantz noted.

The gathering was a meeting of the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance, the collective voice of acute care and mental health hospitals across the GTA.

"The GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance, working in partnership with GTA/905 mayors and chairs has been calling on the provincial government to improve local access to hospital care in the GTA/905," said Kirk Corkery, chair of the alliance.

GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance research shows that since 2003, the funding gap — or shortfall — for hospital services in the GTA has widened from \$590 million in 2003 to \$740 million last year.

A report of the alliance, Places for Care, has practical recommendations that'll give greater hospital access as well as help reduce wait times and save government money, Mr. Corkery said.

The meeting was particularly timely in light of provincial hospital funding announced in September that seemed to ignore Milton.

The Province gave the go-ahead to begin the expansion and redevelopment of Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital and to proceed with building a new hospital in north Oakville.

For the past two years, Halton Healthcare Services has also been seeking approval to move forward with the expansion of Milton District Hospital, but that hasn't come.

"Milton for the most part was cut out," Mr. Krantz said of the recent funding announcement. "We were well aware we

were on the radar screen for possibly some funding, only to find out it went to Oakville."

He said he didn't know why the funding went to Oakville over Milton.

"I hope politics wouldn't have played a role," he said. "I hope there was a greater need in Oakville than there was in Milton."

The resolution was also supported at the Region of Halton's December 1 meeting of the administration and finance committee.

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