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Don't file up community/E Smitheman

Infrastructure minister says leaders need to inspire enthusiasm, not anger, in wait for hospital expansion

> By Tim Foran CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Ontario's Minister of Energy Infrastructure, George Smitherman, provided some advice to community leaders looking for an expansion of Milton District Hospital - don't get the community "riled up" in anger at the Province, and it's advantageous to show you have the money to help pay for the expansion.

Speaking at a Milton Chamber of Commerce reception Tuesday afternoon, the minister, who came to talk about the government's Green Energy Act legislation, didn't avoid the hot topic in town - Milton District Hospital, which was built to serve a community with less than half the town's current population.

"I would want everybody to know there's not a lack of awareness about the need for (expansion)," Smitherman told attendees. "I'm not in a position today to make an announcement. (But) before too long, we'll be able to advance forward."

Former Halton regional chair Peter Pomeroy, who's the chair of an ad hoc committee of community leaders in Milton called Friends of the Hospital, questioned the minister following his speech on what advice he may have for the committee to advance the expansion timeline.

Smitherman responded that community leaders should avoid inciting anger among the community on why the Province hasn't started the expansion. Riling up citizens only dampens see LOCAL on page 4

751 Main Stb E-7 Milton (Across from Go Station)



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

WHAT A SCREAM: Sam Sherratt students were in awe Wednesday when Canadian band 'See Spot Run' performed as part of the public elementary school's Lunch Break Jam Session. The program brings in artists and bands to create awareness of the music business. Many of the young fans painted their faces and made signs for the band, which has opened for Bon Jovi.



