

# Board's stance to be finalized at meeting later this month

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Trillium Health Centre, both in Mississauga, and the new Oakville hospital scheduled to open in the next five years.

Those findings represent a preliminary position of staff at the LHIN, which has been

asked by the Province's Ministry of Health to provide feedback on a proposed master plan for Milton District Hospital expansion that was presented by HHS to the ministry last September. The board of directors of the LHIN is scheduled to finalize the LHIN's

position on the expansion proposal at its next meeting November 26 in Mississauga.

The LHIN plans, co-ordinates, integrates and funds health-care services at the local level, an area comprised of south Etobicoke, Mississauga, Milton, Georgetown and Oakville. Securing its approval is necessary for HHS to get provincial approval and funding for the MDH hospital expansion.

In a master plan submitted to the Province last September, HHS proposed a staged approach to the redevelopment of Milton's hospital. Currently 68 beds, the facility could be expanded to a maximum of 86 beds within its current footprint. The first stage of an expansion would include the construction of a new three-storey ambulatory (outpatient) care building to be built by 2011, intended to relieve pressure in the maternal/newborn area, surgical suite and the emergency department. The second phase would include the construction of a new building, essentially larger than the hospital is now by 2016, coinciding with the renovation of an existing wing built in 1987. A third phase would include the demolition of the 1959 and 1967 hospital wings in 2017.

In total the square footage of the hospital would increase to 450,000 by 2021 from the 100,000 it was at in 2006-07, with the number of beds increasing to 212 from the current 68. The expansion would include a concomitant introduction of new clinical services to be offered at the hospital, according to the LHIN presentation.

LHIN staff's preliminary position is that it agrees with the need for the expansion of

ambulatory care, maternal/newborn, emergency and some general medical/surgical services at Milton's hospital, along with the necessity to improve some outdated infrastructure. However, the staff presentation stated a more comprehensive review of the size and scope of the programs and services to be offered at the Milton hospital must be done, considering the other capital expansions proposed or approved for other hospitals in the area surrounding Milton.

The LHIN is preparing to undertake an Acute Care Services Capacity Study, looking at how and where health-care services should be offered in its jurisdiction over the next 15 to 25 years. One option LHIN staff presented to the board included recommending approval of some program enhancements to support emergency and ambulatory care services at MDH but considering further program expansions to be considered later, following completion of the study.

Following the board meeting, MDH COO Allan Halls said he was encouraged LHIN staff acknowledged there was a need for some expansion of MDH. However, he expressed concern that LHIN staff seemed to be indicating a solution to the board that would involve only recommending improving capacity of some programs and services.

"You have to provide a wide array of services to support the ER," Halls said. "One of the messages we'll be taking forward (to LHIN staff) is the number of services a proper community hospital provides."

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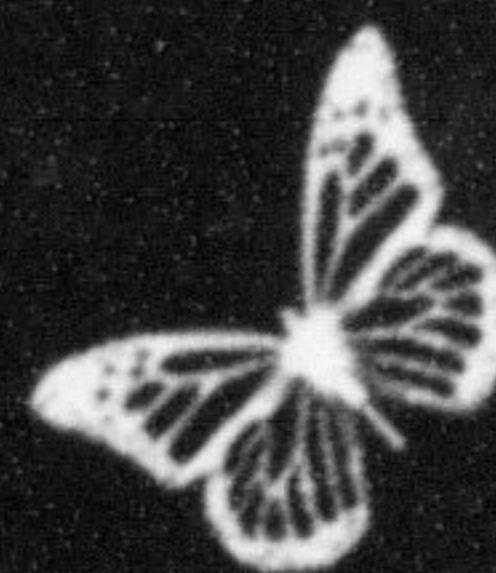


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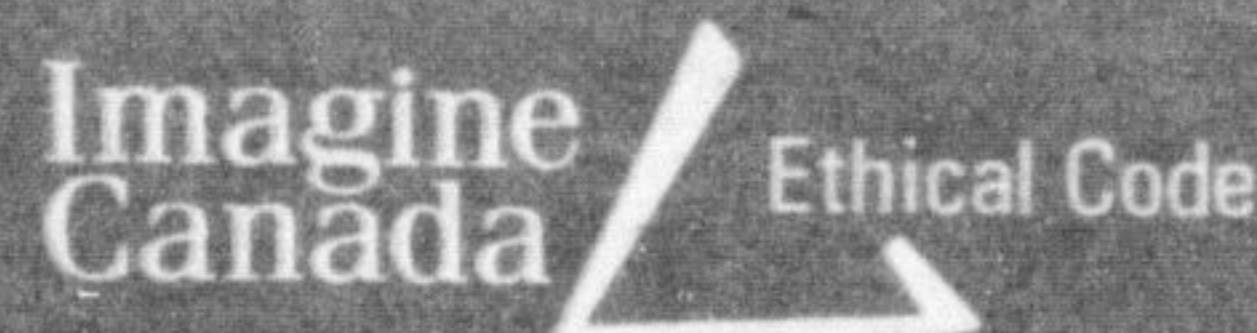
**5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.**

**Milton District Hospital Grounds**

**Lights go on at 6 P.M.!**

- Refreshments sponsored by Starbucks in Milton
- Musical performances by Milton Choristers
- Great Door Prizes!

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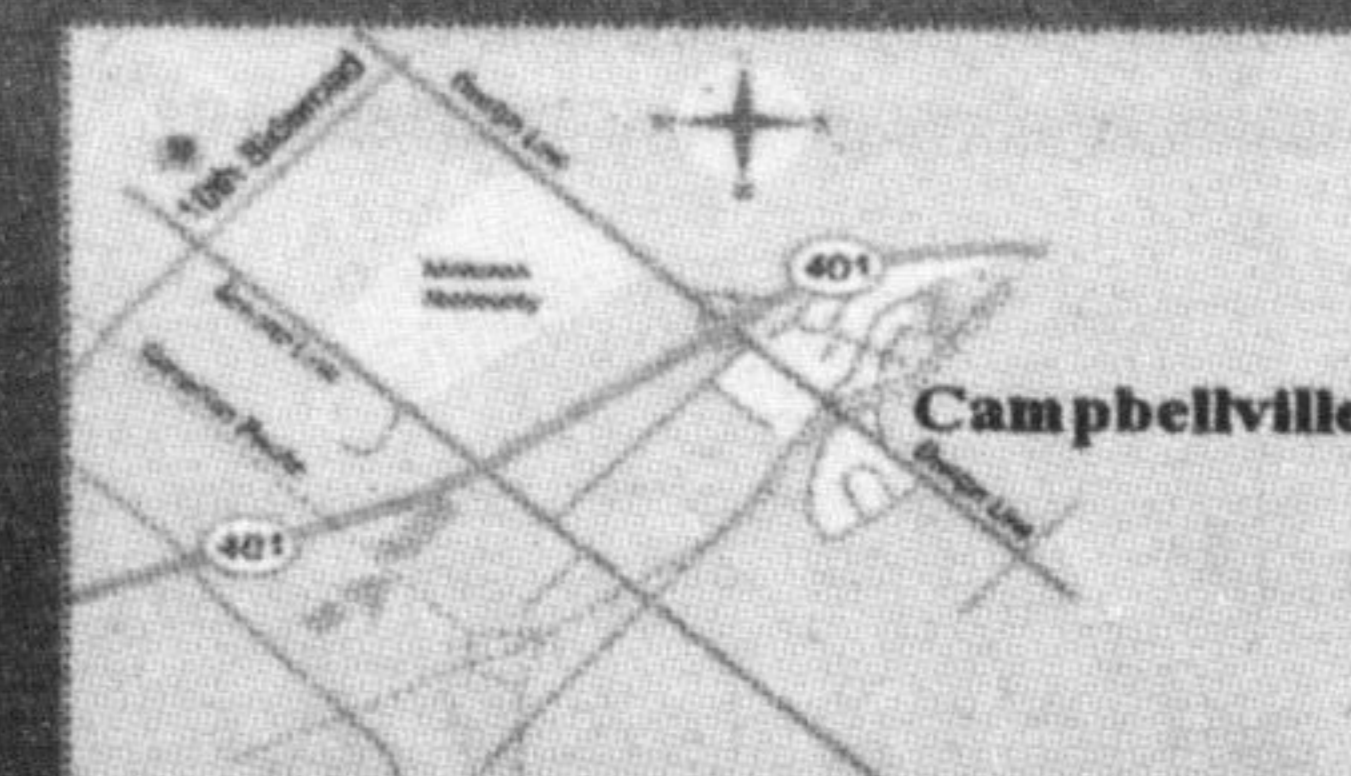
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