

# Significant portion of funds coming from Oakville community

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“... waiting and waiting to see the doctor — is going to be gone opening day,” said Oliver. The CEO said about 80 per cent of the patients seen at the new Oakville hospital will be from Oakville with the other 20 per cent being made up of residents from the surrounding communities of Burlington, Milton and Mississauga.

As the hospital will be larger and feature additional services, it will need more staff to function effectively.

Martin said there would also be an increase in the skill set and talent of staff after HHS completes a recruiting drive for new physicians.

“Because it’s a new hospital and because we are in such an attractive community, we are attracting the best physicians that are available right now,” said Martin.

Oliver said HHS is already adding staffing because some of the changes planned for the new building are starting to be implemented at the existing OTMH.

## Adding close to 1,000 new staff

“By the time we are fully ramped up (at the new hospital) and have all the funding in over that five- to six-year period, I think we will be adding close to 1,000 staff,” said Oliver.

“At least 50 per cent of them get added on in

the first year.”

Doing all the things the new hospital plans to do costs no small amount of money and a significant portion of those funds are coming from the community.

The Oakville Hospital Foundation, a charity that works with the community to fund essential medical equipment for Oakville’s hospital, was initially tasked with raising \$60 million. The foundation’s Chief Executive Officer Tina Triano said that as of February the foundation has succeeded in raising just more than \$55 million.

She said this puts the campaign slightly ahead of schedule.

“The community has been engaged and inspired and very supportive so far,” she said.

“We’ve tried to reach every corner of the community. We’ve done so with pace setting gifts like Peter Gilgan’s \$10-million contribution, our largest gift in Oakville and for this campaign.”

Bike rides and galas organized by the group have also raised considerable funds.

Triano said more than 100 volunteers have spread the message of how urgently money is needed for equipment for the hospital.

While the provincial government funds the construction and planning costs, and do-

nated the site from provincially-owned lands in the area, equipment is not funded by the Province.

EllisDon is the majority partner of the construction joint venture building the hospital. The facility was designed by Parkin Architects and Adamson Associates Architects. However, it will be the community fundraising that helps in to ensure it has the equipment it needs.

The Town of Oakville has also agreed to make a contribution of up to \$130 million. Mayor Rob Burton said not making it could have indefinitely delayed the project. The mayor has also argued a larger hospital is needed to promote infectious disease control and it would create opportunities for jobs and businesses in the community.

Burton said thanks to the revenue stream from local green energy projects and other business ventures, the \$130 million would not come from the taxpayer.

“We’ve had some pretty good success with that,” said Burton.

“(The Oakville Beaver) covered the opening of the fifth transformer station that serves Oakville... We could have paid more than \$30 million to Hydro One to build it and then paid fees to operate it or we could build it

ourselves for two-thirds as much money and that’s what we did. I estimate it will cost about \$8 million and some to carry a \$130-million donation. That transformer station alone is supposed to generate \$2 million back to the Town per year.”

## Paying the price tag

Burton also said Oakville Hydro’s sale of Blink Communications netted the Town about \$100 million, a ‘big chunk’, which has been held in reserve to assist with the contribution if needed.

In addition to planning how the new hospital will function, HHS staff also have to plan how to get hundreds of patients, thousands of pieces of equipment and furniture from the existing OTMH site to the new location.

While an exact timeline for the move has yet to be ironed out, Hardenne said typically most of a hospital’s departments and support services are moved first over a week or so. Then a clinical move will take place — involving patients — including those with more serious conditions. The aim is to move this group in 24 to 36 hours. Additional equipment deliveries will follow.

The move is scheduled for mid-December 2015. Following it, OTMH will close its doors.

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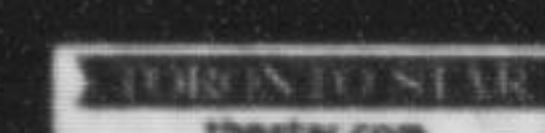
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