New CEO picked for Markham Stouffville Hospital

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

A Whitby hospital administrator has been chosen from 150 candidates to be the third president and chief executive officer of Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Elizabeth Woodbury, president of Whitby General Hospital, is someone who can build outside partnerships for a hospital and motivate staff within its walls, officials at Markham Stouffville said this week.

Woodbury will take the post Oct. 1, replacing Marilyn Bruner, who resigned this winter.

"Markham Stouffville Hospital is a wonderful facility with a very bright future and a talented leadership," Woodbury said from Whitby on Tuesday.

She added she hopes for "a very long and mutually-beneficial relationship" with Markham Stouffville, a community hospital she praised as "very progressive, dynamic, and very forward-thinking."

"They've been very successful in building a hospital that meets the needs of the community," said Woodbury. "That will continue to be a challenge as the community grows."

Staff from both Whitby General and Markham Stouffville heard the news after they gathered for simultaneous announcements Friday morning. Officials said Woodbury will gradually be introduced to Markham Stouffville and its staff, while Whitby General can use the next two months to adjust.

"This came as a surprise to them," said Dr. Jim MacLean, Markham Stouffville's acting president, returning to his position as Markham Stouffville's chief of staff.

A former administrative director for professional services at the Toronto General and the Toronto Western Hospital, Woodbury received a master of health administration degree from the University of Ottawa in 1988.

Since 1992 she has been president and CEO of Whitby General, being transformed into a regional rehabilitation centre.

The presidential search committee was impressed with Woodbury's experience and skill at developing partnerships for the Whitby hospital, leading to a more integrated system of health care, said Damian Bassett, chair of the Markham Stouffville board.

ELIZABETH WOODBURY

"That continues to be her vision," he said yesterday.

As Markham Stouffville's president, Woodbury said she plans to build relationships with other health care providers in the area.

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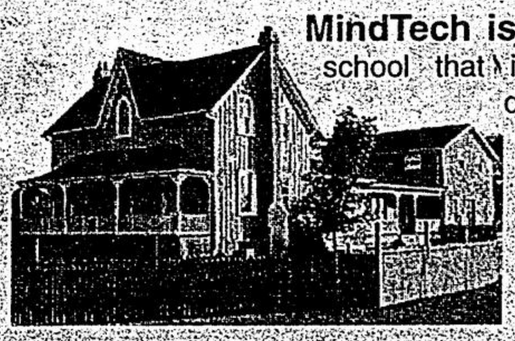

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