

Long-term health care space grows

BY JENNIFER BROWN
STAFF WRITER

It was a picture not often seen in today's lean, mean health-care system.

While hospitals in other parts of Ontario are being closed or amalgamated, officials and politicians gathered at York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill Thursday to pour the cornerstone for a new long-term care facility.

The \$21.5-million facility will be linked to the hospital on the first and second floor and will include 100 nursing home beds, 90 chronic care beds and 32 rehab places — doubling the size of the hospital.

The hospital will grow to 519,000 square feet from its current 343,000 square feet and the T-shaped long-term care facility will be on land that previously served as a parking lot. As the physical size of the hospital grows, so does its budget — going from \$58 million to almost \$100 million by 2003. York Central is the first to benefit from funds allocated as a result of hospital restructuring initiatives in the province.

"You are one of the first hospitals to begin construction after the recommendations of the health services restructuring commission (HSRC). You are leaders as you begin this construction," said Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer, who attended the ceremony.

But the project has been in the works for many years prior to the creation of the HSRC. York Central first obtained a nursing home licence 10 years ago but there were always delays along the way.

When the Health Services Restructuring Commission recommended additional beds last spring, plans for the centre increased in size.

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MILLIKEN on the move

A Community Partnership

Health Speaker Series

Presented by Markham Stouffville Hospital

LOCATION: Milliken Mills Community Library
Program Room
7600 Kennedy Road, Markham
(905) 940-8323

TIME: 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

NOVEMBER 4, 1998

Preschool Speech/Language Program
Speaker: Isabelle Gluliani

NOVEMBER 11, 1998

Nutrition/Food Labels
Speaker: Pam Sharma

NOVEMBER 25, 1998

Domestic Violence/Community Resources
Speaker: Carl Basso

Milliken on the Move: A Community Partnership, has as its essential theme the drawing together of people interested in building a stronger social network within the whole community serving the needs of youth, families, disabled, seniors and any other group. Anyone who wants to be involved can share in the leadership and presentation of ideas. The Steering Committee wants to open more opportunities for people to participate actively in the life and work in Milliken Mills, and Markham.



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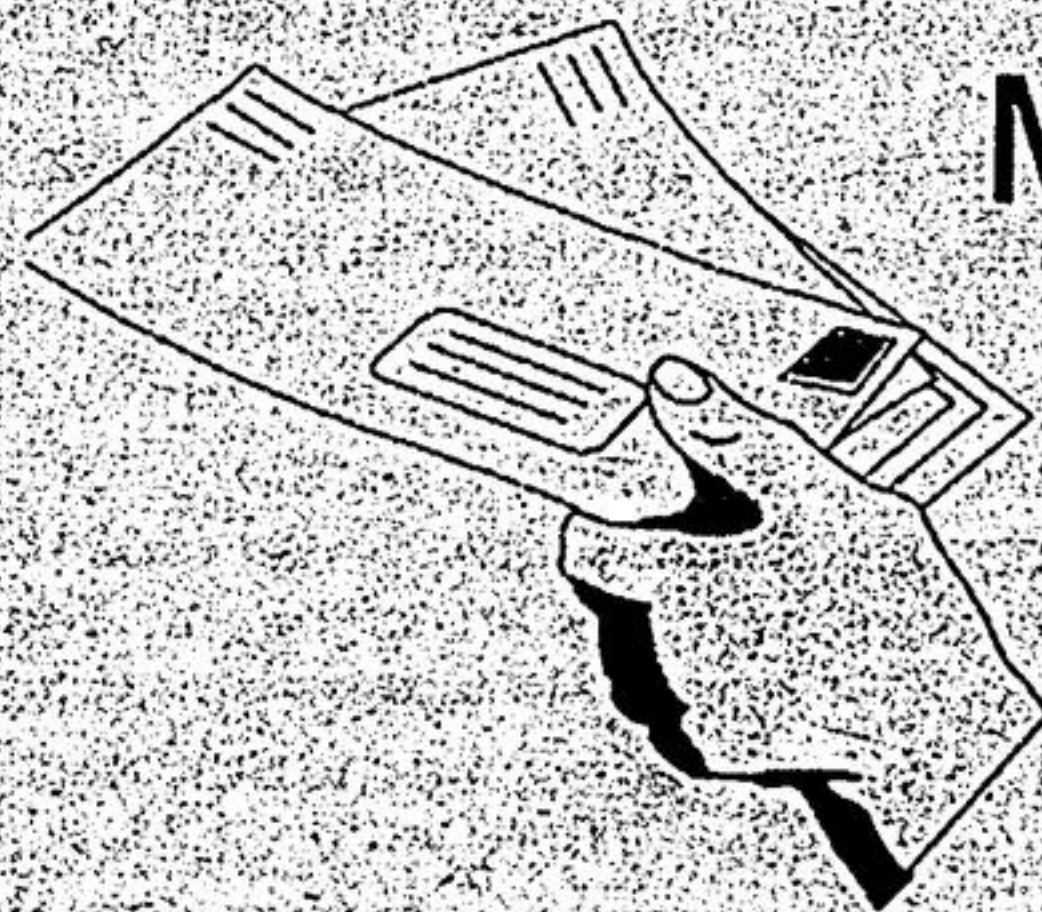
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