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**HEALTH: \$1.7 million allocated to Markham Stouffville**

# York Region hospitals get \$9.8 million boost

*Funds keep hospitals operating in the red*

BY JENNIFER BROWN  
 STAFF WRITER

York Region Hospitals have received long-awaited funding that will help eliminate deficits they've been running for almost a year.

On Thursday, a one-time grant totalling \$9.8 million was announced for the region's hospitals by the Ministry of Health.

The funding will help ensure medical equipment is ready for the year 2000 and address short-term financial pressures resulting from restructuring.

The funding will be provided before Christmas, according to Durham-York MPP Julia Munro.

Hospitals will receive the following allocation:

- York County Hospital — \$4,368,957
- York Central Hospital — \$3,706,779
- Markham Stouffville Hospital — \$1,742,306 (\$1.5 is for year 2000)

The announcement was welcomed by local hospital officials. "We're thrilled with it. It balances

our budget for this year," York County Hospital president Dan Carriere said.

The Newmarket hospital also received notice Thursday that it is no longer required to provide a recovery plan to the ministry.

For more than a year now, the hospital has been funding the additional beds it needed to handle increased patient loads and ran up a \$3-million deficit.

"The funding will ensure we can keep those beds open," Carriere said.

In a written statement, Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer said the government will continue to work with Ontario's hospitals to ensure long-term funding solutions are in place for the financing of Ontario's hospitals.

But the announcement left York Central Hospital still looking for \$1.5 million in desperately-needed funds for the regional dialysis centre.

However, hospital officials said Friday they are optimistic the money is on its way.

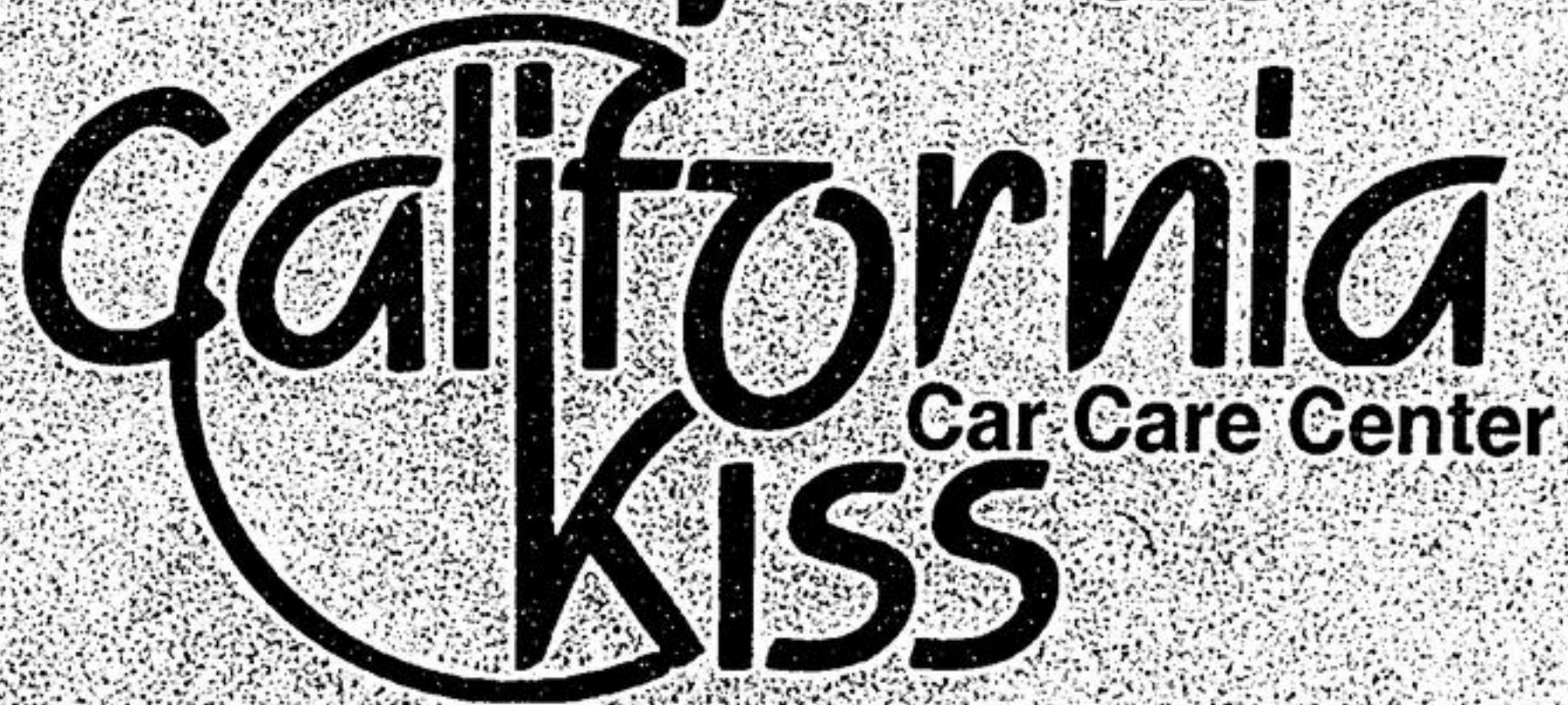
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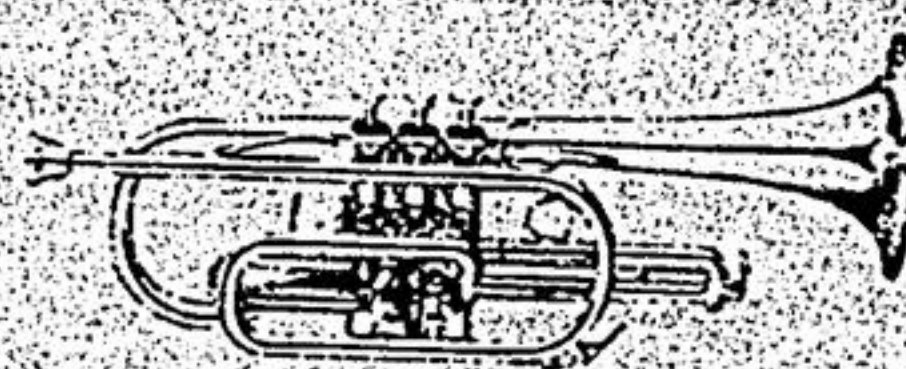
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## CORRECTION

It should read:  
 On page 6 of the flyer in effect from Wednesday December 9, 1998 to Saturday, December 12, 1998 the Danson replacement bulb's (5's) may not be exactly as pictured.  
 We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.