

# Markham Stouffville Hospital gets \$4.5-million advance from province

Newmarket's York County sees a \$15.5-million payout

BY JENNIFER BROWN  
Staff Writer

York County Hospital and Markham Stouffville Hospital have been advanced \$20 million to move forward with plans for restructuring their hospitals.

The announcement, made yesterday, provides for \$15.5 million for York County Hospital to begin expansion of its emergency, critical care beds and complex continuing care beds. The hospital's total redevelopment plan will cost \$103 million.

"York County Hospital will now have the money needed to

move these vital construction and expansion projects ahead faster," said Barrie-Simcoe-Bradford MPP Joe Tascona.

Markham Stouffville, which has plans for a \$30-million expansion, will receive \$4.6 million for its projects, even though it has not yet finalized its redevelopment plan.

A total of \$1 billion will be provided to 54 hospital corporations across the province to fast-track restructuring projects. The province is using the SuperBuild fund to provide the money up front, enabling hospitals to move forward with their projects according to their own timetables.

Hospitals were given the opportunity to apply for the advanced funds, which they

could put in the bank to draw on as needed and to earn interest on, thereby benefiting from the additional funds.

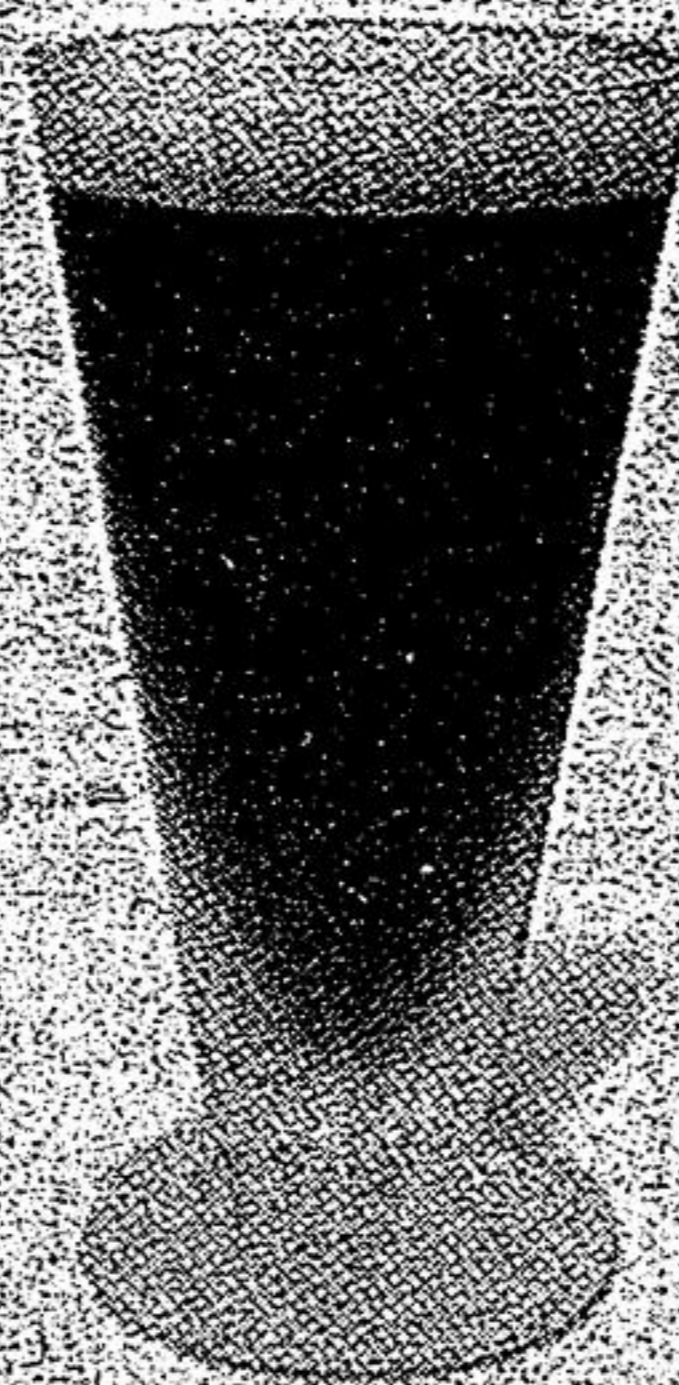
York Central Hospital president Frank Lussing said the Richmond Hill hospital did not apply for what he says was actually "discounted" funding as its redevelopment project was already under way.

In fact the hospital's continuing care and rehabilitation centre is nearing completion.

"For those already in construction and development mode, it did not make sense," he said.

"We decided there would be no advantage when we have already completed one-third of our redevelopment project."

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