Markham Stouffville Hospital gets $700,000 in new provincial funding

BY SARAH PARKER
Staff Writer

The Markham Stouffville Hospital is to receive more than $700,000 as part of $121 million the Ontario government is investing in health care services, but hospital president Dr. James Maclean says health care woes can't be solved by money alone.

Markham MPP David Tsubouchi announced from the hospital yesterday that the Markham funding will go toward orthopedics and the neo-natal unit. A total of 3,100 joint implants will now be funded across Ontario, but Maclean said that an increase in the number of doctors and nurses is needed first in order to perform the surgeries.

The Markham Stouffville Hospital itself will continue to deliver the services it always provides, said Maclean. The new funding will now allow the hospital to meet its projected level of service as outlined in its 2000/2001 operating plan.

"It's recognition by the government that it has to now invest in health care, especially with an aging and growing population," said Maclean, who also serves as the hospital's CEO.

But he noted the growing and aging population means the province has to pay attention to the human resources needed to deliver proper services. This in part means ensuring that more people are properly educated and trained for health care jobs, he noted.

Tsubouchi, who is Ontario's solicitor general, said that Queen's Park will keep investing in health care. Markham Stouffville Hospital provides high quality care, he said, and he will continue to advocate that the hospital be recognized for that.

Other priority areas that the government's multi-million dollar investment will go to across Ontario include cardiac care, organ transplants and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines. In Markham, the money for the neo-natal unit means the hospital will continue to specialize in premature births, meaning patients won't have to be transferred elsewhere.

'Stuffing the bus' part of transit food drive

BY SHANNON WALTER
Special

Markham residents are encouraged to Stuff the Bus this holiday season and enter to win tickets for a Markham Theatre performance for the fifth annual holiday food drive.

As part of the fifth annual holiday food drive, Markham Transit's decorated Christmas bus will be on site at three grocery store locations where non-perishable food items can be donated.

A spokesperson for Markham Transit said the goal is to collect more than 8,800 pounds per bus, which was last year's total.

Donations can be made Saturday, December 2 at the Highway 48/16th Avenue Garden Basket, Sunday, December 3 at the Warden Avenue/Highway 7 Loblaws and Saturday, December 16 at the Highway 7/Woodbine Avenue Longo's. At each locale donation times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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