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VITALITY



GROWTH IS NOT OPTIONAL: THE NEED FOR EXPANSION

It is obvious to anyone living or working in Markham or Stouffville that the increase of new people and businesses is non-stop. What does that mean for Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) and our ability to serve the community? What does it mean to you if you need to use the Hospital?

When the planning for MSH started, the population of Markham/Stouffville was under 47,000 people. When the Government approved the Hospital's construction, the population had grown to about 90,000. Last year, the number of people in the area had soared to almost 250,000. And in the next 10 years more than 70,000 people will move into the community.



But what does that mean in practical terms? The Hospital was built to do 1,800 births a year. Last year we delivered 2,722 babies. Our diagnostic imaging area (X-rays, CT scans, ultrasound) was designed to provide 30,700 exams. Last year we did 108,233 exams. Our plans on opening were to do 1,759 day-surgery procedures a year. Last year we topped 8,000. We can and have worked smarter and used the most up-to-date techniques, but we can't provide care if there is no place to put the person, the staff, or the equipment.

From a bed use perspective, hospitals are expected to have about 85% of their beds in use at anytime. This is considered full and efficient. At that rate, we can handle some emergency admissions. MSH routinely has above 95% of its beds occupied. That means that the Hospital has virtually no flexibility to deal with emergencies. As a result we have to keep patients in the emergency department while they wait for a bed, discharge patients early and in some cases even turn away expectant mothers because we have no beds for them to deliver in.

When a hospital first opens, there is a certain amount of excess space for growth. All beds aren't opened at once. The emergency department has some areas that are not fully used. As the community grows more services, beds, staff, etc. are added as needed. For the past twelve years, MSH has done just that. It has opened new beds and programs. However, because of how fast the population has grown, the excess space that was expected to last many more years has been filled up much faster than predicted.

For you, this means you can and will receive great care once you are in the hospital, but getting in is increasingly difficult. Waiting times are longer. Elective surgery may take months to be carried out. Access to our physicians will become more difficult and we cannot bring on new doctors because there is no space in the Hospital for them to hold their clinics or operating rooms for them to do surgery.

We have a plan to grow the Hospital. For over three years, we have been working with the Provincial Government to get the go ahead to expand. However, we have not yet received the OK. The Board of the Hospital is continuing to press for approvals.

Over the next few weeks, we will be telling you about our exciting and innovative plans and seeking your support to get on with our much-needed redevelopment/expansion.

For more information visit our website at www.msh.on.ca.

EXERCISE CODE GREEN: HOSPITAL EVACUATION

On October 1, 2002 the Hospital will conduct a "mock" Code Green Stat (hospital evacuation) exercise.



The scope of the exercise will involve all areas of the Hospital with a maximum of 3 simulated patients per area being evacuated without impacting patient care. The objectives of the mock exercise are as follows:

- Test the flow of communication and coordination between key internal positions of responsibility with external emergency response agencies.
- Build staff awareness of evacuation routes and procedures.
- Determine the approximate amount of time it would take to evacuate the entire hospital.
- Identify gaps and areas of improvement for the plan and its communication structure.

York Region Fire, Police and EMS personnel will also be participating in the exercise.

Markham Stouffville Hospital is one of very few hospitals within Ontario who has taken the opportunity and time to test its evacuation plan to this extent. By testing our Code Green Plan, which is just one part of our overall Emergency Disaster Plan, we can be reassured in knowing that we have a plan in place that will help save the lives of our patients and staff if we ever needed to rely on it.

MSH WINS MARKHAM BOARD OF TRADE ANNUAL BUSINESS AWARD

Markham Stouffville Hospital has been awarded the 2002 Award for High Standards and Working Conditions in the Markham Board of Trade Annual Business Excellence Awards.

The Markham Board of Trade Annual Business Awards program is to recognize Markham businesses that have made a contribution to the economic and social well being of The Town of Markham. All Markham businesses are eligible and the Hospital was nominated in early spring. The award acknowledges excellence in working conditions and high standards in employee relations.

Congratulations to the staff, physicians and volunteers of Markham Stouffville Hospital!

Important Notice: Markham Stouffville Hospital Parent Link Telephone Line

Effective Wednesday, September 4, 2002, the Parent Link Line provided by the Maternal Child System at Markham Stouffville Hospital will convert to the Telehealth Ontario program at 1-866-797-000.



The Telehealth Ontario program is a provincially run 24-hour telephone advice service including features such as quick response time, (calls answered within 4 rings) state of the art, online documentation system and multilingual and hearing-impaired services.

We are confident that this change will be an enhancement to our current support and appreciate your understanding during this transition.

Upcoming Events

- Milliken Children's Festival: September 7, 2002 from 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. free pancake breakfast from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Milliken Mills Community Centre
- 905/MSH Week Kick-off date: October 28, 2002
- Fashions for Life Fashion Show: October 30, 2002
- Body & Soul Joint Fundraising Dinner and Show: November 21, 2002