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Alzheimer's daycare centre planned for Stouffville

BY SARAH FASULLO
Special

A daycare center for people with Alzheimer's and other cognitive impairments is planned for Stouffville, Whitchurch-Stouffville council learned Tuesday.

An application for the facility has been made to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Sean O Sullivan, president of the board of directors of the Alzheimer's Society of York Region told council.

The centre would operate five days a-week in the first year (from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and expand to six days later on.

Similar facilities are operating across York Region including Newmarket and Richmond Hill. The Stouffville centre will offer respite programs to give care givers a break.

Operating costs will be begin at \$380,000 for the first year and are expected to climb to about \$625,000 in the fifth year.

All the funding will come from the Ministry of Health and Long Care Term Care.

Program activities at the centre will include singing, sewing and many other crafts, said Mr. O Sullivan.

The daycare will offer meals and transportation. Some of the people attending will go every



HARRY BOWES: Alzheimer's, other dementia conditions on the rise, says council member.

day, while others will attend once, twice, or three times a week.

"A need has been demonstrated in Stouffville," noted Mr. O Sullivan.

While a location has not yet been found, the preliminary work for the new service is underway.

"It might not be realized for a year or two, but who knows? The application is before the Ministry," said Mr. O Sullivan.

Alzheimer's and other related dementia conditions are on the increase, Ward 5 Councillor Harry Bowes pointed out.

And more people being treated for the disease as diagnostic technology improves. "More than 19,000 will be diagnosed with dementia by the year 2031 in York Region," said Mr. O Sullivan.

In January, the region's Alzheimer Society hopes to hold a run/walk to enhance public awareness.

As well, the society is hosting an awareness breakfast at Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club in rural Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The guest speaker at the breakfast is a 38-year old mother who is caring for her 42-year-old husband.

He is showing early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

At the moment, the society has social worker support programs, family support groups as well as a Wandering Person Registry in York Region.

"We continue to serve our families and are very active at provincial and regional level in advocating for families," stressed Mr. O Sullivan.

The Alzheimer's breakfast is Jan 18.
For tickets call 1-905-895-1337.

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