

Hospitals face layoffs

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thing I can tell you is widespread layoffs across the province are on the table right now. All hospital administrations are faced with no additional funding from the Ministry of Health and are forced to balance budgets based on the legislature's accountability agreements."

Peterborough's Regional Health Centre is closing 32 beds and laying off 125 full-time staff. At the Huron Perth Health Alliance in Stratford large service and staff cuts are anticipated, Ms. Yeadon said.

"Hospital administrators don't have money to provide services to an increasing number of aging patients, so they have to streamline their operations. One way they are doing that, unfortunately, is by cutting workers out of the system. That will ultimately impact on patient

care," Ms. Yeadon said.

Markham-Stouffville had initiated a benchmarking study about six months ago, public relations vice-president Chad Hanna said.

"That study examined all aspects of the hospital. Most hospitals have gone through some form of benchmarking, comparing themselves to their peers," he said. "In our case, we identified approximately \$5.9 million in savings by becoming more efficient and effective without reducing any programs, services or volume."

The hospital will adjust staff schedules to ensure floors are covered with fewer staff.

Most of the savings are from salaries, Mr. Zon said.

The hospital will bring in revenue through the sale of patient equipment, such as crutches, and hospital parking fees.

"Obviously, every dollar we can make is one less to worry about," Mr. Zon said.

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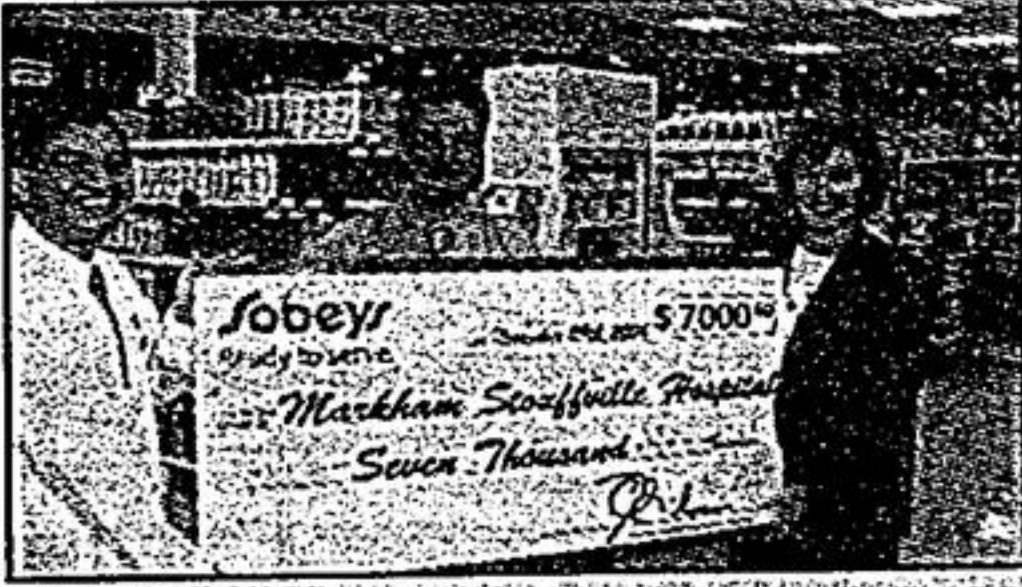
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WAL-MART CORRECTION NOTICE

The price and the item number for the Jensen AM/FM/CD Player with Detachable Face advertised in our current flyer (expiring December 12th) are in correct. The correct price is: \$129.97. The correct item number is: #1062355.

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