

Hospital receives funding for CT scan

BY CHRIS TRABER
Staff Writer

Increased access to diagnostic medical services and reduced wait times in York Region hospitals are a step closer to reality with the province's announcement of \$120 million for new equipment and more hours to operate them.

Markham Stouffville Hospital will replace an aging computerized topography (CT) machine with its \$1.38-million share.

It will be installed in spring and will allow the hospital to add five CT patients daily, diagnostic system director Lynne Campkin said.

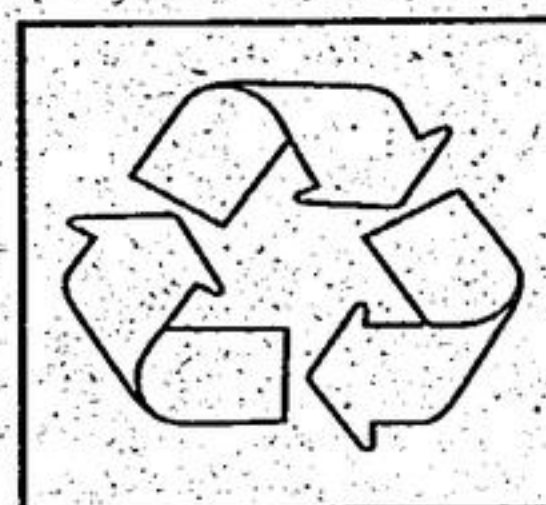
"We welcome this funding announcement because replacement of

our existing CT scanner has been imminent for some time," Ms Campkin said. "The new scanners deliver a quantum leap in image quality and speed, leading to increases in efficiency that enable the hospital to reduce wait times for our patients."

Southlake Regional Health Centre is slated to receive \$3 million for a replacement magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine and \$84,600 to expand its annual operation by 220 hours for 330 procedures. The new equipment and expanded usage budget will allow the hospital to perform an additional 1,800 scans per year. Currently Southlake does 6,200 yearly scans.

"The wait time for a non-urgent MRI

can be up to 12 months," Southlake CEO Dan Carriere said. "With the funding for the additional procedures and the opening of new MRI suites at Markham Stouffville and York Central hospitals we have reduced our wait times to four months. Once the new machine is installed, we expect that wait times at Southlake for a non-urgent MRI will be down to two months."



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