

Funding cuts wait times at Markham Stouffville Hospital

BY MICHAEL POWER
Staff Writer

Provincial funding to reduce wait times will mean another 150 cataract operations at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

The hospital collaborated with North York General in applying for cash to fund more cataract surgeries, resulting in a \$782,000 increase to be shared between the hospitals. Markham Stouffville will also

get \$350,000 to increase its MRI and CT scans, said Pat Shaw, vice-president of public relations.

Also, the two hospitals received almost \$2 million to do more hip and knee replacement operations at North York General Hospital's Branson site at 555 Finch Ave. West.

The hospitals also applied for that funding in partnership, Mr. Shaw said.

"This is very exciting attention for health care in York Region and

we're very pleased to be part of it," he said. "It provides for better care closer to home."

The province is also providing about \$58 million across the province for more services, such as improving Ontario's Wait Times Information System and rehabilitation programs.

The cash will help shortening the time patients wait for procedures in several key areas — cataract and cancer surgeries,

MRIs and CTs, cardiac care and hip and knee replacements.

Meanwhile, Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket will see more CT scan procedures, Dr. Louis Balogh said.

Dr. Balogh, the hospital's vice-president of regional cardiac, cancer and surgery programs, was responding to an announcement this week from the provincial government that it would invest an additional \$50 million into fighting

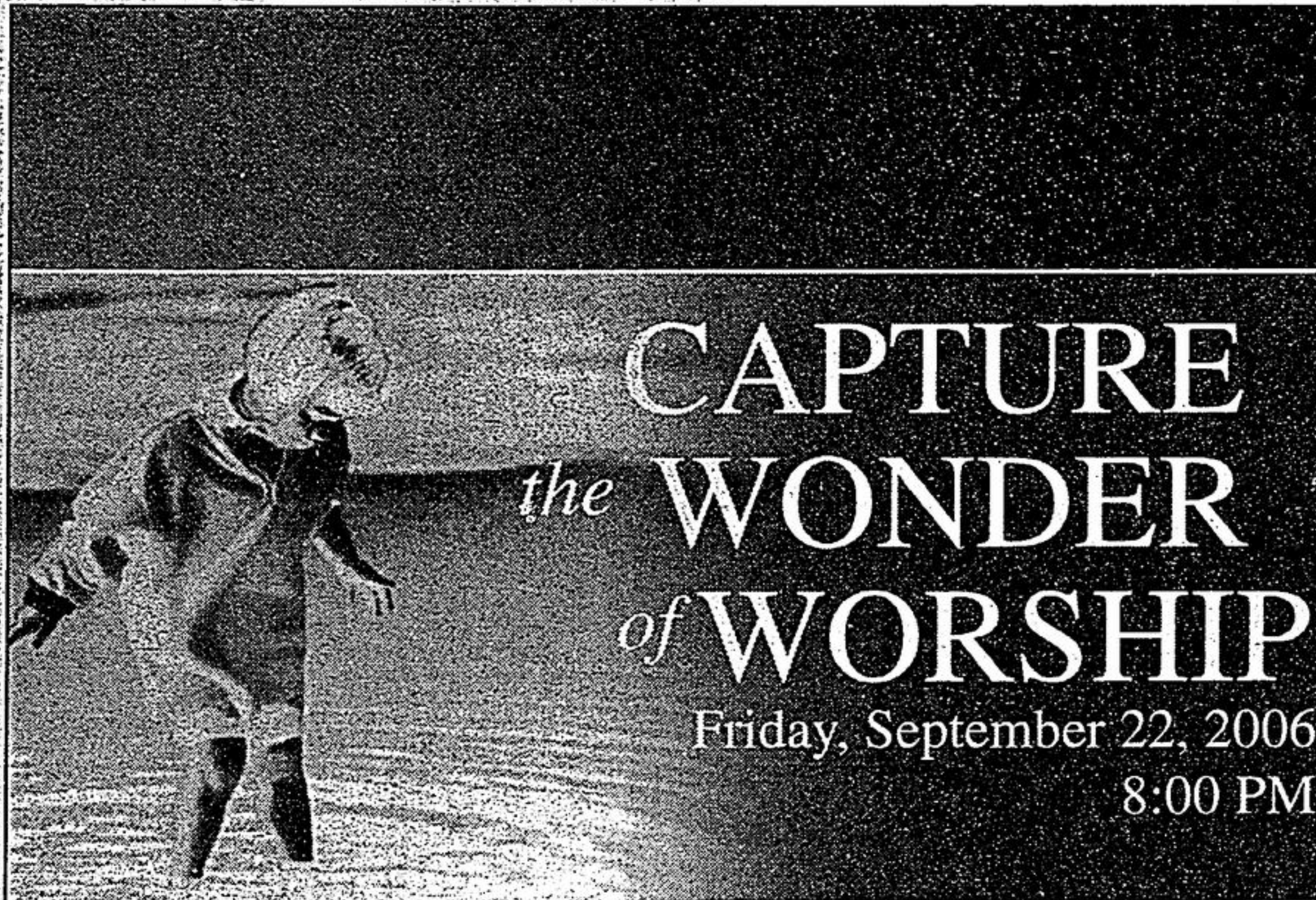
medical wait times.

Southlake will receive \$104,000 to increase the number of CT procedures the hospital performs by 1,456.

"That is certainly welcome because we have a very long wait list," Dr. Balogh said.

The announcement will complement cash the province injected into the system in March to shorten wait times.

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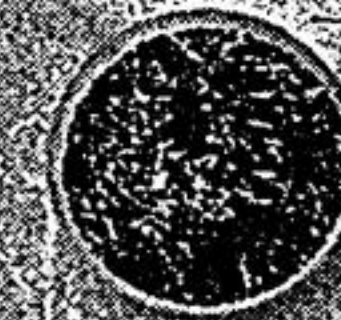
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Water FOR Tomorrow FALL LAWN CARE TIPS

1. AERATION

An aerating machine will mechanically remove plugs of soil and turf, reducing soil compaction and improves penetration of water and nutrients into the soil. This is great for the clay soils found in York Region.



Fall is a great time to maintain your healthy lawn. Healthy lawns require less water and chemicals and are resistant to many common pest problems, including grubs and chinch bugs.

2. TOP-DRESSING

By covering your lawn with 1/2 inch (1.5cm) of organic matter (compost or triple mix) each year in the fall, you can dramatically improve the conditions of your soil, and thus the health of your lawn.



3. OVERSEEDING

Adding different species of grass seed to your lawn will help to diversify your lawn, making it more resistant to pests such as grubs and chinch bugs. Once you have aerated and top-dressed your lawn, evenly sprinkle perennial and fescue grass seed over you lawn and lightly rake in.



For more information on lawn care, watch for the Water For Tomorrow Bulletin in your mail or visit www.waterfortomorrow.com

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