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# Cancer centre hoping for next phase of funding

Minister to make announcement at hospital today

BY MICHAEL POWER  
Staff Writer

He couldn't say for sure what today's announcement on York Region cancer care would be, but Southlake Regional Health Centre CEO Dan Carriere was willing to make a guess.

"We're hoping it's going to be a statement about the regional cancer centre and something that would get us to the next phase (of construction)," Mr. Carriere said yesterday.

Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman is scheduled to make the announcement at Southlake today. Officials at hospital yesterday had yet to learn the specifics of the announcement, such as if Mr. Smitherman's visit would include funding and, if so, for how much, Mr. Carriere said.

But a release from the hospital stated the announcement would have a "significant impact on Southlake's ability to deliver additional lifesaving cancer services to the residents of York Region."

Construction of the regional cancer centre is slated to begin at Southlake in early 2007 and finish by 2009.

The four-storey, 90,000-square-foot facility will feature:

- Radiation treatment;
- 23-bed chemotherapy unit;
- Three out-patient clinics with 20 rooms for assessments, treatment planning and supportive care and;
- A terrace and garden.

"That would be my guess and my wish," said Mr. Carriere, regarding funding for the centre.

"We're not sure what (Mr. Smitherman) is going to say or what he's coming up for. But if he was delivering bad news, he wouldn't come up to Newmarket."

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