



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Unionville's Village Grocer Evan MacDonald hands out delectable cookies to Carol Wildgoose, chairperson of the Markham Stouffville Hospital Tahitian Ball. It will be held on April 9.

COMMUNITY: \$50M needed for furnishings, fixtures

Taste of Tahiti at gala will help expand hospital

BY SIMONE JOSEPH
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Markham and Stouffville's population is expanding and its hospital must grow with it.

So says Carol Wildgoose, who spoke at a Markham Stouffville Hospital fundraiser kick-off last week.

The hospital holds an annual fundraising gala and this year, the gala will be named The Tahitian Ball.

The fundraiser kick-off was held at The Village Grocer in Unionville, which is a gala sponsor. Staff wore leis while Tahitian music played in the background.

Last year's gala centred on Ireland.

"The hospital is the centre of our community," said Ms Wildgoose, chairperson of this year's gala event.

Markham Stouffville Hospital opened in 1990 to serve 77,000 people in the Markham Stouffville area. Today, that population has expanded to more than 300,000 people and the hospital also serves part of the Durham area.

"The ... community is growing immensely. Everything was designed around a smaller population. The demand on the hospital is huge, based on the increase in population," Ms Wildgoose said.

The hospital site is being prepared for construction, which will begin in the fall. The new

NEW FEATURES

The new hospital will include:

- * Double the existing square footage
- * Triple the current emergency space
- * More than double the diagnostic imaging area
- * Triple the space for ambulatory clinics (i.e. diabetes, asthma, sleep disorders)
- * Eight new operating rooms (for a total of 14)
- * One hundred additional beds (for a total of 309)

hospital will be open to the public in 2014.

The hospital's expansion campaign needs to raise \$50 million to fund furnishings, fixtures and equipment — items not covered by government funding.

The fundraising goal for the gala is \$450,000. Last year's gala raised \$400,000 toward the expansion.

A trip to Tahiti will be auctioned off at the gala. A 2010 Hyundai Accent will be the grand prize in the gala's raffle.

The gala is on April 9 at Hilton Suites Markham.

For sponsorship or ticket information, contact Allan Bell at 905-472-7395.

<p>THE ALDEBURGH CONNECTION Sunday, March 28 / 2pm CLASSICAL MUSIC</p> <p>Johane Ansell / soprano Erica Iris Huang / mezzo Christopher Enns / tenor James Baldwin / baritone</p> <p>The Aldeburgh Connection is one of Canada's most respected recital series.</p> <p>Artists featured on their DISCOVERY SERIES have performed across Canada and around the world. Discover four fine young singers as the Aldeburgh Connection comes to Stouffville!</p> <p>TICKETS: \$25 regular / \$12 student SPECIAL OFFER: ALL tickets now \$13! Quote Code: ACDS10</p>	<p>SHARRON'S BIG BROADWAY SHOW April 8 & 9 / 8pm MUSICAL THEATRE</p> <p>"BEST CABARET PERFORMER" NOW Magazine (2009)</p> <p>"Sharron Matthews is PERFECTION" Toronto Star</p> <p>"The HOTTEST Ticket in Town" National Post</p> <p>If there is ONE thing Sharron learned during her career in musicals (<i>Les Miserables</i> and <i>Beauty and the Beast</i>) and movies (<i>Mean Girls</i> and <i>Hairspray</i>) it is that the BEST tales happen backstage!</p> <p>TICKETS: \$35 regular / \$18 student SPECIAL OFFER: ALL tickets now \$18! Quote Code: SBBS10</p>
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