

Oakville Beaver

Sign of the future for hospital

David Lea
Dec 12, 2007

The empty site at the corner of Dundas and Third Line where Oakville's future hospital will be built became less empty on Monday as municipal, provincial and health care representatives gathered to unveil a billboard-sized sign, which emphasized the hospital's pending arrival.

Halton Healthcare officials said the posting of this sign is a milestone because it celebrates the McGuinty government's transfer of 50 acres of land for the project and serves to commemorate what has been done so far.

"There is already a lot of work that has been done," said John Oliver, President and CEO of Halton Healthcare Services. "The functional program is in with the ministry. The master plan has been finished. The land transfer actually came over on Nov. 22."

Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn said the land the hospital is expected to be operational on by 2013 could have had a different future if not for the determination of both provincial and local governments.

"I think it just signifies the commitment that we've had as a government to make sure that these large projects take place," said Flynn.

"Everybody was talking about expanding an Oakville hospital. Everybody was saying it was a wonderful idea. Everybody was saying the land was available, but nobody was really making it happen."

According to Flynn, the commitment continues.

"There's a lot of public input being put into the building itself. There's a lot of input being sought from stakeholders, so when the hospital is finally built it's going to be the hospital that Oakville wants," said Flynn. "It's going to be bigger and better than the existing Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital."

Construction is slated to begin in 2010. The new hospital will be a state-of-the-art facility and will provide improved service, as well as reduced waiting times, more beds and a full range of health services including acute care, obstetrics, pediatrics, surgical care, mental health programs and complex continuing care.

"I offer a huge thank you to the provincial government for recognizing the great need for a new hospital," said Mags Shorey, Chair of the Oakville Hospital Foundation.

"It has been said that Oakville is a unique community and this is a unique opportunity for everyone in this community to come together and support what will be a state-of-the-art, close to home, new hospital for this generation and for the many generations to come. The Oakville Hospital Foundation really looks forward to being a part of this new project and making it a reality."