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**Town Applauds New Hospital - Supports Town Goal to Ensure Infrastructure Keeps Pace with Growth****Oakville, March 12, 2007 - For Immediate Release**

At a press conference today, Oakville Mayor and members of Council applauded the McGuinty government's announcement last week to transfer 50 acres of provincially owned lands for a new state-of-the-art hospital in north Oakville.

"This is excellent news for Oakville residents," said Mayor Rob Burton. "We are very pleased that the Ontario government is moving ahead with its commitment to provide Oakville with a new hospital capable of providing services that will meet the healthcare needs of our growing community."

The announcement by Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn revealed that the proposed hospital site is located on the north side of Dundas Street West at Third Line. The new facility will have more beds than Oakville's existing hospital facility and will provide a full range of health services, including acute care, pediatrics, surgical care, mental health programs and complex continuing care. Local fundraising for the new hospital will begin shortly and construction work on the facility is expected to start in 2010.

The Ontario government's financing model for large, complex hospital projects, such as Oakville's, ensures public ownership, value for money, accountability, and transparency in agreement with the principles of the government's Building a Better Tomorrow policy framework. Ontario's critical infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools, will always be publicly owned, controlled and accountable.

"The Town is working hard at managing growth in North Oakville and finding the right balance of environmental protection and opportunities for economic growth," added Burton. "This announcement is a step in the right direction by the province to support municipalities with the funding or infrastructure they need to accommodate growth."

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