

Oakville Beaver

Council approves funding for new hospital

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“We’ve heard from our medical community that improvements are necessary not only in the size, but in the type of facility that we have. The use of single-patient rooms for the majority of the space is not about creating luxury accommodation. It is about creating better patient outcomes and patients will not be turned away as a result.” - Ward 6 Town and Regional Councillor Tom Adams.

After months of debates, delegations, a town-wide survey and public meetings, Oakville council has voted to contribute \$200 million to Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) to help build the new Oakville hospital.

The decision, which was supported by all but two councillors, will see the Oakville contribution paid in chunks with a \$130 million payment due when the hospital is open and operational in 2015, another \$40 million paid over the next 30 years to cover the hospital’s lifecycle costs and \$30 million paid at the time of the project’s financial close, but only if it is seen as necessary by the council of the day.

Ward 3 Town and Regional Councillor Keith Bird, who voted against the contribution, said during Tuesday’s meeting that he had seen nothing to convince him that the hospital funding was a responsibility of the municipal government and voiced concerns that giving the money to HHS wou