

# Oakville Today

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## Hospital breaking ground this summer?

**Work expected to start at new hospital site in August, says HHS consultant**

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Ian Holroyd

Shovels could begin hitting the dirt at the site of new Oakville Hospital this summer.

At a Planning and Development Council meeting Monday night, Tom Plamondon, an urban planning consultant hired by Halton Healthcare Services (HHS), revealed to Town Councillors that groundbreaking could take place as early as August of this year.

“There is a great degree of anxiousness on everyone’s part to get shovels in the ground,” he said.

Ward 4 Town and Regional Councillor Allan Elgar asked Plamondon directly when Oakville could expect to see work commence at the 50-acre site at Third Line and Dundas Street West.

Plamondon said that it is likely that the projects request for proposal, which is in its final stages, will be received on February 25.

“The preferred proponent will then be identified,” he said.

Plamondon continued, saying that a review of the bidding documents should take place around May and commercial and financial close of all of the documents should take place towards the beginning of August.

Elgar then said, “It looks like we’ll have shovels in the ground by September and October?”

Plamondon responded, “or as early as August.”

Elgar also asked Plamondon when the doors at the hospital will be opened because he and his Ward 4 colleague, Town Councillor Roger Lapworth were frequently being asked that question by residents.

“It’s still pretty much on track,” said Plamondon, “but it’s December 2015.”

When the discussion of the meeting turned to the development of Third Line north of Dundas Street West, Lapworth asked Director of Engineering and Construction with the Town, Darnell Lambert when that section of road was expected to be opened to the public?

Lambert said that a number of elements of the project would need to be completed first including a trunk sanitation sewer, a water diversion channel and pipe, storm water management facilities, followed by the installation of local services.

“Then Third Line itself would be put into place,” he said. “I would imagine that could be something that could be accomplished late 2012, maybe the spring of 2013, and open to the public.”

At the meeting, Council voted to adopt staff recommendations to implement the new hospital site plan. The recommendation includes that the Town pre-commit \$120,000 from the 2011 budget and \$3.1 million from the 2012 budget to fund the engineering and construction of Third Line between Dundas Street West and the new Burnhamthorpe Road.

According to the report, the Third Line construction will be wholly funded with development charges.

Council also authorized to award the contract for the construction of Third Line to the consortia responsible for building the new Oakville hospital. According to the report, the process undertaken by HHS and Infrastructure Ontario for the selection of the consortia satisfies purchasing by-law 2010-130 for a competitive bid process.