

## Markdale to get new hospital

*Meaford Express*

The provincial government has finally announced that it will build a new hospital in Markdale.

Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care was in Markdale on Tuesday, Sept. 16 to make the announcement that local residents have been waiting to hear for more than a decade.

"I'm proud that our government is moving forward with a new hospital in Markdale. The new hospital will provide improved health care services for the people of this community and will ensure that families in Markdale have access to high quality services close to home," said Hoskins.

The announcement was made in front of Grey Gables in Markdale where the new facility will be built.

Grey Highlands Mayor Wayne Fitzgerald was ecstatic about the news.

It's absolutely great news. It really came out of the blue," he said.

Fitzgerald said Grey Highlands representatives were disappointed recently when a meeting with Minister Hoskins to discuss the hospital project had to be cancelled. They were told to reschedule the meeting for October.

"Next thing we know, they're making the announcement. It kind of blew everybody away. Everybody here is on a real high today."

Fitzgerald said he expects it is going to take about two years for the planning process to be complete before residents see shovels in the ground.

"Grey Bruce Health Services is extremely pleased with today's announcement and we look forward to building a new hospital for the residents of Markdale and the surrounding central Grey area," said Lance Thurston, President and CEO of Grey Bruce Health Services. "Our community has been very generous over the years in supporting hospital fundraising initiatives and now we can built an efficient, appropriately sized and designed-state-of-the-art facility."

The new facility will replace the aging hospital in Markdale. It will boast improved services for patients, including integrated 24/7 urgent and primary care. It will also include short-stay beds, minor procedure space, as well as diagnostic and laboratory services.



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