

# Markdale hospital remains on track, CEO tells council

**DON CROSBY**  
SUN TIMES CORRESPONDENT

The proposed new Markdale hospital continues to make its way through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care approval process with minor changes.

In October Grey Bruce Health Services submitted a detailed design and architectural rendering which was approved.

Hospital president Lance Thurston told Grey Highlands council on Monday that he expects a few questions to clarify details but once that happens the project will move to the tendering process, which could take another year.

He said he expects construction to begin in late 2019 and take two years to complete.

The ministry has reduced the size of the building to 68,888 square feet by shrinking the space in the basement to 27,000 square feet.

The building is now estimated



A drawing of the Markdale hospital.

to cost \$66 million, down from an earlier \$70 million estimate. The lower cost is due to the reduction in size of the below-ground space.

The design documents show a lot of glass on the south side of the building.

Two ambulance bays are enclosed, unlike the one at the current hospital which is open to the

weather.

There will be 100 parking spaces for vehicles and three for horses and buggies.

Thurston said despite the four in-hospital beds plus one palliative care room there is the potential to add on to the building when the need arises. He's confident that day will arrive.

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## Project well underway

### **HOSPITAL from A1**

The current plan is for patients to stay three to four days for stabilization before being moved to another hospital such as Owen Sound, or be sent home.

In answer to concerns raised by councillors about whether the project could be cancelled if there

was a change in government after next year's provincial election, Thurston was careful to say that nothing with government is ever certain, but he thinks the project is on the ministry's capital project list and well along the approval process, enhancing its chances of weathering any political change.

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