

Markdale hospital on track

DON CROSBY
SUN TIMES CORRESPONDENT

Construction of a new hospital in Markdale is to begin in the summer 2019, with a ribbon cutting ceremony planned for 2022, said Lance Thurston, president and CEO of Grey Bruce Health Services.

"We are very close to making our Phase 3 submission to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Then we will be rolling out an extensive communication plan to the community about what all that means," Thurston said in an interview on Sept. 28 in Markdale.

The public meetings will include drop-ins, meetings with municipal councils and public events.

Thurston said Phase 3 is very close to the engineering plans and architectural drawings stage just prior to the project going to tender.

"This is extraordinary, the contribution made by Flato. It's an investment in our future as a community."

Lance Thurston.

"We've submitted our plans to the ministry, they now have to review them and revise them. We've given them a 30-day window. They'll have questions and some issues, we'll fine-tune things and once they approve that we can approve the tender documents and go out to tender,"

Thurston said.

Thurston said the tender process alone can take up to six months.

He noted that a \$500,000 donation toward the Markdale hospital fund by Flato Development president Shakir Rehmatulla Thursday is very important.

"This is extraordinary, the contribution made by Flato. It's an investment in our future as a community," said Thurston.

Rehmatullah is currently involved in a three-phase, 800-unit housing development in Dundalk.

He made a presentation of \$500,000 during a ceremony at the current Centre Grey Hospital in Markdale Thursday. In honour of the financial commitment by the company the lobby of the new hospital will be named after Flato Developments Inc.

Thurston noted that latest financial contribution by Flato is just one indication of the strong commitment to this project.

Thurston noted that the Health ministry is making a big investment in the hospital, along with Grey Bruce Health Services as are the residents and businesses of the community, with \$13 million raised over a number of years.

"This donation just personifies that and indicates that investment in this community and the future of this community is strong... and where we are headed as a community is very positive and going forward very well," Thurston said.



\$1.50 (includes tax)

The
Owen Sound
Sun Times

Fri 9/29/17.

Thanks
Heal