

Press Release

Monday, December 14, 2009

Municipality supports Family Health Centres with an interest free loan

The Town of the Blue Mountains expressed their support to the North East Grey Health Clinics (NEGHC) at Monday night's Council meeting by providing an interest free loan to the board. The repayable loan in the amount of \$420,000 would be for a maximum of five years to assist with the cost of building a medical centre. In addition to the repayable loan the town is providing a grant of \$250,000 to assist with construction costs and a further \$100,000 for assistance to cover start-up fees and charges.

NEGHC is planning to build a 6,400 sq. ft. medical centre to accommodate four doctors and have additional space for two more. It has been found providing a medical centre is essential today in attracting doctors to a community. Also the project is to be designed to accommodate a 2,500 sq. ft. expansion if necessary in the future. The total construction cost of the Family Health Centre is estimated at \$1.375 million with construction planned to start in April 2010 on the Highway 26 site.

The municipality estimates the cost of the loan to the municipality would be \$25,000 in lost interest over a five year period.

The fundraising committee of the NEGHC has been actively seeking community support with \$573,000 of donations and pledges in hand and approximately \$500,000 left to raise from the community. For further information on the Community Family Health Centres or if you'd like to help or make a donation please check out the website. www.communityfamilyhealthcentres.org

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