

**Southlake, Georgina, and Northern York South Simcoe Ontario
Health Team partner to improve local health and wellness**

*New memorandum of understanding enables work to create a new healthcare
facility in Georgina*

GEORGINA, ON – June 27, 2024 – The Town of Georgina, Southlake Regional Health Centre and the Northern York South Simcoe Ontario Health Team (NYSS OHT) have joined forces to improve local health and wellness through a new memorandum of understanding (MOU). Signed during an announcement earlier today that included local MPP Caroline Mulroney, the agreement establishes a formal relationship between the parties around shared goals of improving services for residents in Georgina.

“This is a massive step forward to improving healthcare services in Georgina,” said Mayor Margaret Quirk. “Council will be modifying the Health Care Strategy and Action Plan approved in 2024 in order to expedite advancing access to health care in our growing community. This is extraordinary news for all residents as well as future generations in our community. We welcome this commitment by Southlake and the NYSS OHT to enhance health and wellness in Georgina.”

The new MOU outlines five shared areas for collaboration:

- Health Facilities and Resources
 - Increase health-oriented service capacity through the development of new facilities and resources in Georgina, as well as the expanded use of existing spaces to increase access to care
- New and Expanded Health and Wellness Programs
 - Improve health equity by increasing access to inclusive, evidence-informed programs and services that meet Georgina’s current and future needs
- Advocacy and Community/Partner/Provider Engagement
 - Collaboratively pursue and advocate for support and investments from funders and decision-makers at all levels of government
- Data Sharing
 - Working together to inform shared pursuits that leverage each organization’s information and insights, while upholding all applicable privacy requirements
- Research and Innovation
 - Explore joint partnerships with academic institutions to bolster research that informs literature and advances knowledge and standards for leading edge care

Up to \$210,000 is being invested by the Town of Georgina to help implement and advance the MOU’s shared goals. The funding will support MOU administration through a dedicated Project Lead at Southlake.

“We’re thrilled to be working with our partners on council and at the NYSS OHT to deliver integrated care to patients in Georgina,” said Paul Woods MD, President and CEO of Southlake. “While work to develop a second hospital site for Southlake is still ongoing separately, our capacity challenges cannot be ignored much longer. This partnership will help us strengthen local healthcare services as we work to bring care, closer to home.”

Central to the MOU’s shared goals is the pursuit of a new healthcare facility in Georgina to provide a suite of services based on the most pressing needs of the community.

“By taking a collaborative approach, we’ll improve coordination of initiatives, reduce duplication of efforts and make a bigger impact,” said Christina Bisanz, Co-Chair of the Northern York South Simcoe Ontario Health Team. “Georgina already has excellent representation in our OHT and we look forward to increasing programs and services to better serve residents in Georgina.”

“Since being elected to represent the great people of York-Simcoe, bringing healthcare closer to home for families has been a top priority. Today’s announcement reflects a strong partnership in our community to deliver care to those who need it most,” said Caroline Mulroney, MPP for York-Simcoe. “Our government will continue to explore innovative and creative healthcare solutions for residents and their families as we build up our healthcare system for the next generation.”

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About the Town of Georgina

Georgina is a lakeshore town in one of Canada’s fastest-growing economic regions, York Region, where residents, organizations and businesses work collaboratively with the municipality to create a well-connected and diversified economy poised for growth. Georgina is a community of communities, with each area having a unique and historical identity, all united and proud to collectively call Georgina home. With 52-kilometres of Lake Simcoe shoreline and only an hour from Toronto, Georgina offers a balanced rural and urban lifestyle, making it a desired location to live, work and play.

About Southlake

Southlake is building healthy communities through outstanding care, innovative partnerships, and amazing people. We deliver a wide range of

healthcare services to the communities of northern York Region and southern Simcoe County. Our advanced regional programs include Cancer Care and Cardiac Care and serve a broader population across the northern GTA and into Simcoe-Muskoka.

Our team of 6000 staff, physicians, volunteers, students and Patient and Family Advisors are committed to creating an environment where the best experiences happen. As a recognition of our commitment to quality and patient safety, we have received the highest distinction of Exemplary Standing from Accreditation Canada.

With an annual operating budget of over \$600 million, we care for one of Ontario's most rapidly growing and aging populations and have developed an exciting plan for new facilities to serve our communities into the future. A member of the Northern York South Simcoe Ontario Health Team, we are working with our partners to deliver connected care to northern York Region and southern Simcoe County.

Southlake is supported by the communities we serve. To donate, please visit www.southlake.ca/foundation.

About the Northern York Region South Simcoe Ontario Health Team

Northern York South Simcoe Ontario Health Team (NYSS OHT) is a partnership of health care organizations providing a wide range of high-quality health care services to the residents of northern York Region and southern Simcoe County. The NYSS OHT works to connect care in the communities it serves by working closely together to increase access and reduce gaps in the health care system.