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**MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT APPROVES NEW MRI MACHINE IN COBOURG**  
*New Equipment At Northumberland Hills Hospital Will Increase Access To Quality Care*

COBOURG – The approval of a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine at Northumberland Hills Hospital will give Cobourg-area residents increased access to better health care, Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced today.

“A new MRI machine will make a significant difference for local residents who need faster diagnosis for a variety of needs,” said Smitherman. “By making newer technology available at Northumberland Hills Hospital, our government is helping patients access important health care services closer to home.”

With the addition of a new MRI machine, the ministry estimates that Northumberland Hills Hospital will be able to provide 4,160 MRI scans annually to its patients.

“This is great news for patients in the Cobourg area,” said Northumberland MPP Lou Rinaldi. “For people receiving these scans who get a clean bill of health it will mean quicker peace of mind. For others it may mean a fighting chance against a disease like cancer, where early detection is vital.”

Today's initiative is part of the McGuinty government's plan for innovation in public health care, building a system that delivers on three priorities - keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

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