

Story from MyFm December 8, 2010

MORE BEDS NEEDED FOR ARNPRIOR'S AGING POPULATON

The Arnprior and District Memorial Hospital has upgraded its emergency department and should have a Family Health Team by August of 2011. The next step, is to deal with the redevelopment of the Grove Nursing Home and take a look at alternatives to Long Term Care beds. This issue is being seen more and more across the area as hospital beds are being taken up by those needing Long term care or alternative care. A recent study by the hospital was presented Tuesday evening (Dec 7) to McNab-Braeside Council and it shows a need for home care services and assisted living. Arnprior and its catchment area is far worse off than the province as a whole, with 20.4 per cent of the population over 65 as compared with 13.5 percent elsewhere. The plan being proposed is to expand the Grove Nursing Home to 96 beds from the current 61, provide some level of expanded home care, and develop some affordable assisted living housing for seniors with less nursing needs. Hospital Board Vice Chair Jay Johnston says the private retirement homes which have spare beds could be subsidized by the government - rather than build new facilities - but he does not see that as likely. He also says the need will grow for all levels of care as the senior population in Arnprior and area is expected to grow substantially right through 2030. The hospital board will be looking at alternatives and options over the coming year.