

## Media Release

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### **St. Joe's patients encouraged to plan ahead for appointments or visiting during Queen Street Hill Closure**

**(May 29, 2013 – Hamilton, ON)** For the next four months as the City of Hamilton's Public Works Department begins reconstruction of Queen Street Hill (Beckett Drive) access, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton is encouraging patients and visitors to plan ahead for their appointments and to add significant time to their journey in anticipation of resulting delays – particularly those arriving for a diagnostic test, clinic appointment or scheduled surgery.

According to the City of Hamilton, Beckett Drive will close from Aberdeen to Fennell Avenue from June 3rd until Labour Day weekend and no formal detour routes will be established. St. Joseph's anticipates that most of the diverted traffic will flow to the James Mountain Road access (West 5<sup>th</sup>) or John Street, leading to significant congestion on the roads that provide direct access to the hospital's Charlton Campus.

"James Mountain Road is the primary access to our parking structure, and we anticipate that the extra traffic on this street will be disruptive for our patients, visitors and staff – particularly during peak traffic times," says Dr. David Higgins, President. "We encourage everyone to plan ahead for their journey".

Traffic delays can have a significant impact on patients, potentially delaying them from arriving on time for an important diagnostic test, clinic appointment, or scheduled surgical procedure, and causing additional anxiety during what can already be a difficult time. St. Joseph's will make every effort to accommodate patients due to delays caused by traffic.

It is anticipated that peak traffic times (6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) will be the most congested on James Mountain/West 5<sup>th</sup>, and blocks surrounding St. Joseph's Charlton Campus.

To find alternative means of transportation during this difficult time, please contact the City of Hamilton by calling 905-546-CITY (2489) or visit [www.queenstreethillclosed.ca](http://www.queenstreethillclosed.ca) where you will find more details about transit impacts. HSR route 34-Upper Paradise will be re-routed throughout this project. Transit users can also call the HSR Information Line at 905-527-4441.

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**Media Contact:**

Karen DeBreau  
Internal Communications Coordinator  
905.522.1155, ext. 33423  
Kdebreau@stjoes.ca