

**For immediate release:  
Monday, October 1, 2007**

## **Working in Partnership with the Jewish Community**

York Central Hospital (YCH) is demonstrating its commitment to meeting the community's cultural needs by providing inclusive, comprehensive and effective care to the rapidly expanding Jewish population in York Region.

The hospital is hosting a Sukkah Open House on October 1, with the cooperation and participation of special guests from the community for the benefit of patients, long-term care residents, staff, physicians and volunteers.

“While they are in our care, we try our best to fulfill the social and cultural needs of all our patients as a way of promoting better health,” says Dr. Larry Grossman, YCH Chief of Staff.

The hospital is working with the local community to realize the Sukkah, an integral part of Sukkot, an eight-day Jewish holiday commonly referred to as the “Festival of Tabernacles”. The festival is traditionally celebrated during the month of October shortly after the Jewish High Holy Days. The Sukkah itself is a temporary hut-like structure in which people dwell, eat and spend as much time as possible and is a focal point of the holiday.

YCH, in partnership with members of the Jewish community, strives to accommodate the special needs of Jewish clientele, staff, physicians and volunteers.

Many patients, staff, volunteers and spiritual leaders are doing their part to create a successful event. For instance, volunteers from Associated Hebrew Schools, a local Jewish elementary school, along with YCH long-term care residents have decorated the Sukkah. Students of TanenbaumCHAT Kimel Campus, a Jewish high school, helped with the building of the Sukkah and the cost of the Schach (the roof of the Sukkah). Spark Learning Centre, a Thornhill-based speech and occupational therapy clinic, absorbed the cost of the Sukkah.

YCH also works in close partnership with staff and volunteers from Chaplaincy Services of Jewish Family and Child who coordinate and organize spiritual and religious care programs to meet the needs of Jewish patients and residents.

The Sukkah is an extremely important religious and cultural symbol within Judaism. This open house happens in the middle of the holiday, which begins on Wednesday, September 26 and runs through the evening of Friday, October 5.

- 30 -

**Media Contact:** Cheryl Bird  
Public Affairs Officer  
York Central Hospital  
(905) 883-1212, ext. 7493, [cbird@yorkcentral.on.ca](mailto:cbird@yorkcentral.on.ca)