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If we build it they will come

A year-and-a-half ago, Orono was just another statistic in long list of communities declared under-served medically. When Orono's last two doctors moved to Newcastle in July of 2002, and one of them later moved out of the area entirely, many local residents found themselves without a doctor, or having to travel as far as Ajax and Pickering to find a doctor willing to take on new patients.

In January of 2003 a group of local residents were brought together by Councillor Gord Robinson to explore the possibility of building a new medical centre in the village. The Orono Medical Foundation was formed which has brought the Orono Medical Centre through the conception stage to where they are now ready to purchase land and build a facility.

This is indeed a golden opportunity for the village. To have two and possibly a third doctor willing to locate their medical practices in this village when so many other places are screaming for doctors, is truly an accomplishment.

The opportunity of having another medical centre in town is a shot in the arm for this village which is currently going through an exercise in finding a future for itself. With doctors now commonly having a patient load of upwards of 3,000 patients, that could add up to a lot of visits to the village that has a population of 1,900.

The Orono Medical Foundation is at a crossroads now. They need to know what kind of support they can raise in the community before they go ahead with plans to purchase the land.

For a village that has always marched to its own tune, the question the Foundation should be faced with now is, not "Can we build it?"—but "How soon can it be done?"

Letters to the Editor

Reader needs your help

Dear Editor,

I've never written to the editor before but we've run into so many dead ends. I thought maybe your paper could help.

Before my Aunt Berneice Milligan from Newtonville died in 1997, she leant a family picture to someone—we don't know who. The picture is of her grandfather (my great-grandfather), Capt. William Peter Kenneth Milligan. The cenotaph in Newtonville was erected in his memory. My son has become very interested in his great-great-grandfather. Capt. Milligan was in the Durham Field Battery, the 48th Highlanders and the 46th Regiment. He went to South Africa and was killed in the Boer War in 1902.

My son is making a presentation on Capt. Milligan, and I would like to find this picture and get a copy of it for him. The picture is fairly large—maybe 18 x 20" in a gold

coloured antique frame. In the picture are three men in uniform all wearing kilts. I can't remember if there is one man standing and two sitting or the other way around. The picture was taken probably in the 1890s.

I was hoping you could put this in your paper and maybe someone knows about this picture or has it. We think she probably leant it to someone locally and would dearly love to get a copy made. I don't know what else to do or who to ask.

Charlene Bowman (Hall)
Welcome, ON
905-753-2211

Kudos to Pat Lycett and fruit program volunteers

Dear Editor,

In 1998, a group of volunteer women organized a fresh fruit snack at the Orono Public School. Wishing to offer an alternative to sugary snacks,

we began with apples donated by Jonathan and Joanne Staples, together with cut up bananas presented to each classroom on large trays.

From the start, the fruit (offered twice monthly,) was

well received. Various women have helped in this venture, and they all deserve credit for their dedication. Some of the staff, and particularly Marjorie Miller, have been

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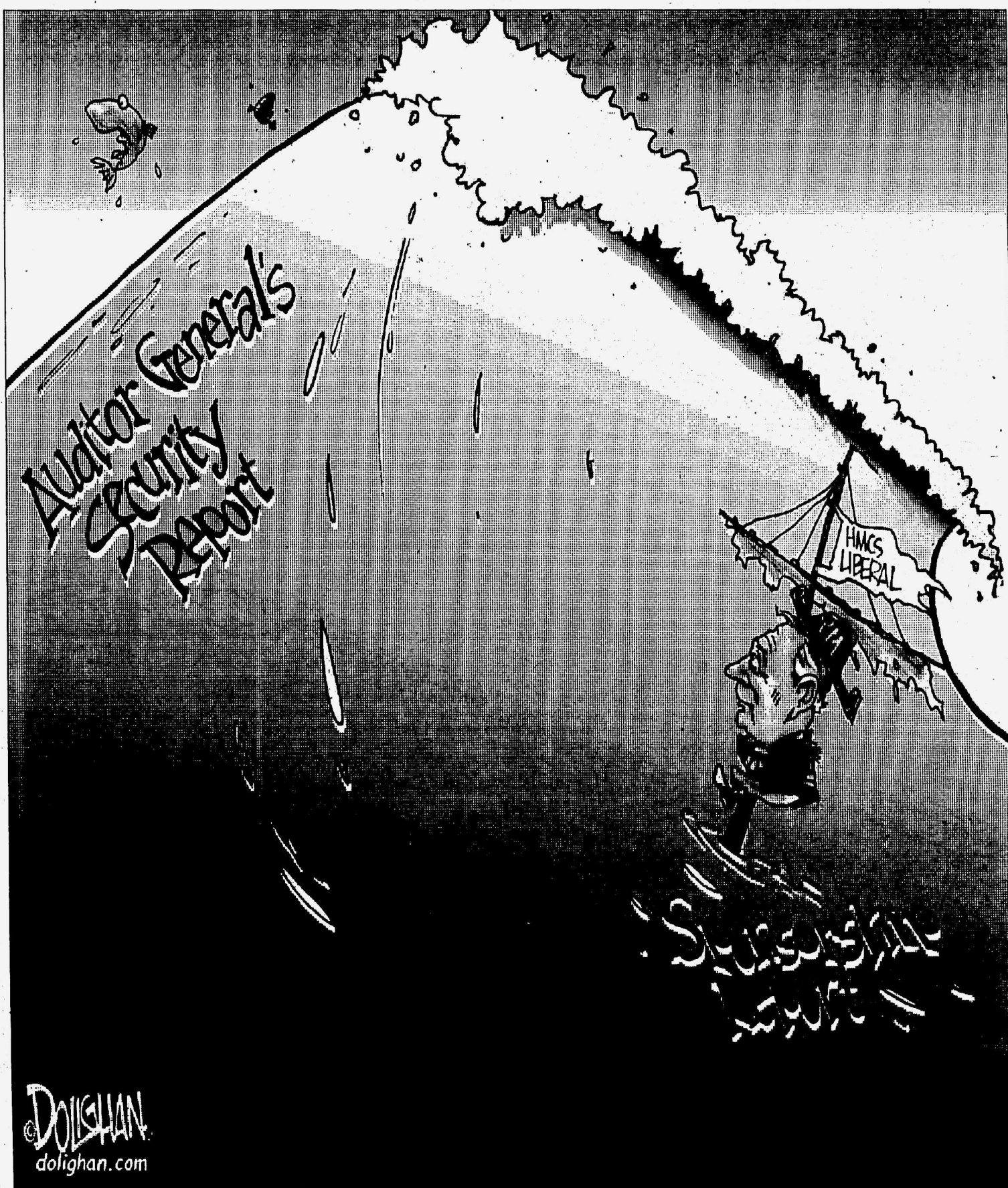
its nose to the grindstone will have no problems making payments on debt. But more importantly, billions in capital have been freed up because the interest payments on the debt have decreased. This has given the federal government more flexibility to allocate funds on healthcare and education.

Indeed the federal government has ensured it has the capacity to offer the provinces further assistance with healthcare in the future.

However, the federal government does want commitments from the provinces on such issues as lowering hospital waiting lists, investments in better health-care related technology, and a general commitment that the provinces will work to increase the general wellness of Canadians.

It's important that we find the tools to measure spending in these areas of healthcare so

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Viewpoint

by Alex Shepherd, MP Durham

Federal government wants commitments from provinces

Canadians made a commitment to getting the country's fiscal house in order. When I entered Parliament, over ten years ago, I was concerned about our level of debt and what appeared to be runaway spending and escalating government deficits.

With this government's strong policy approach we have turned the corner and our economy is on track to deliver significant benefits now and in the future.

Canada was the only country of the G7 to post a surplus in 2002. Canada has consistently

run surpluses for the last seven years. That's more than any other government since Confederation.

Canada is the only G7 country expected to post a surplus in 2003 and 2004 as well.

Governments often refer to, "our debt to GDP ratio." This means the country's total borrowing related to the country's economic performance. This ratio has declined to 42 percent now from 75 percent in 1993. Within the next five years the government's policy is to see further decline to 25 percent.

The government, if it keeps