

Letter to the editor

Action and funding are slow

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ing to assist the families in providing meaningful activities to integrate those with developmental disabilities into their own community would be provided.

Within a few years, the Ontario Liberal government virtually “froze” all new funding to these programs and created waiting lists.

For the last three years, less than 300 new applications were funded from the 4,000 which were approved.

The frustrating part was that the families applying for funding were often not even told a virtual freeze was in effect.

Although the Liberal government’s announcement in its last budget that next year \$15 million in new funding would be allocated to the two programs (which would cover approximately 20 per cent of the fami-

lies on the waiting lists), it also announced that \$20 million was being allotted to Developmental Services Ontario, the agency being created to approve applicants and service providers.

Therefore, more is being spent on developing an agency than in financially assisting the families on the waiting lists.

In July 2011, Developmental Services Ontario sent a letter to families on the waiting list informing them that it would be contacting everyone in the system to complete an “Application Package” to assess their service and support needs.

The letter stated “This will happen sometime in the next five years, and you will be involved in the process.”

Yes Mr. Flynn, your government is “gradually” increasing funding.

Nick Norvack, Oakville

Cause of fire unknown

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“We are also rotating people. Instead of being in the fire for 15 minutes like you might in the wintertime, it’s five minutes and out. It takes longer this way for us to achieve what we have to do, but we have to work that way to ensure our people’s safety.”

Multiple firefighters could be seen making use of these cooling chairs across the street while their co-workers continued to hose down the heavily damaged and blackened building. Grant estimated damage to be in the area of at least \$250,000.

Initial concerns about potentially explosive chemicals being onsite caused the northern portion of Chartwell Road to be blocked off at Cornwall Road.

Grant said that while most of the company’s products were stored outside and away from the fire, there was the potential for refrigerant stored in pressurized containers and a small

welding set to still be inside.

Grant, however, said he was confident these items were not actually in the part of the building that was on fire.

By the time firefighters arrived on the scene flames were shooting through the roof of the structure.

“The fire is primarily at this point on second floor and into the attic. Of course with the extreme temperatures today it spread very quickly,” said Grant at around 4 p.m.

“We certainly have the majority of it knocked down at this point. We are now starting to go through what we call an overhaul process. So we’ll be systematically ensuring certain areas are safe and then moving into the building and removing ceilings and so on to make sure its extinguished in the attic.”

At 4 p.m. flames could still be seen coming from the attic area.

The cause of the fire is unknown.

Correction

A Thursday, July 21 story provided an incorrect date for the fifth annual Premier Charity Comic Classic — Chuckles for Charity.

The event is Oct. 21.

The Oakville Beaver regrets the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

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