

# Our hospital is for everyone

## An open letter to the people of Halton Hills

I recently sent a fundraising letter for Georgetown Hospital's annual Spring Appeal to many homes in Halton Hills and our neighbouring communities.

I would like to thank the many, many people of Halton Hills, Brampton, Mississauga and elsewhere who have responded with generous donations. We are on track to have one of our most successful Spring Appeals ever and I am personally very humbled by this support and very grateful for what it means for healthcare at Georgetown Hospital.

A few people have written back to me sharing a concern they have. It is also a concern that has been expressed in letters to the editor published in this newspaper. They tell me they have chosen not to donate to Georgetown Hospital because the hospital, and the emergency room (ER) in particular, is caring for people from outside the boundaries of Halton Hills and these people are being given the same level of care as those who live in Halton Hills.

They have suggested they will not donate to help Georgetown Hospital until the hospital adopts a policy of making people who do not reside in Halton Hills either wait longer and/or pay more or go elsewhere for care.

Now, a decision whether to make a charitable donation is very personal and there can be many very good reasons why somebody would be unable to, or choose not to make a contribution. However, I would like to suggest that the fact that our ER is shared by people from neighbouring communities is in no way a valid reason for withholding support for our outstanding community hospital.

I would like to share what I feel are the three most important ideas to keep in mind on this issue:

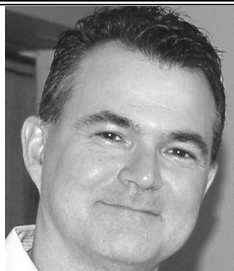
1. Healthcare in Ontario is provided in a province-wide system where anyone can use their health card wherever the care they need is provided.

We are very fortunate in Halton Hills that donors to Sunnybrook Hospital don't mind that we use their trauma unit or that donors to Sick Kids Hospital don't mind when we airlift our children to their hospital in Toronto when we need them to save the life of someone who lives in Halton Hills. Thankfully, the donors and taxpayers who support Credit Valley Hospital, Brampton Civic Hospital and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital don't seem to mind when we visit "their" hospitals so we can receive the orthopaedic surgeries, radiation or chemotherapy treatments for cancer, MRI tests, heart surgeries, high-risk maternal-newborn care, thoracic surgeries, mental health care and all of the many other healthcare services unavailable in a hospital of Georgetown's modest size.

I am personally grateful that I can be seen by the specialists that I require at McMaster Hospital in Hamilton who are best equipped to help me with my treatment for ALS and I am thankful we have

## Dr. Jeff Sutherland

### Guest column



a healthcare system in Ontario where we do not have to pay extra and go to the back of the line to receive care that doesn't happen to be provided in our own backyard.

I am grateful to the donors and taxpayers in our neighbouring communities who have invested in these excellent healthcare facilities that are close enough to Halton Hills that my family and my patients can benefit from their care. I am particularly grateful they don't check my address at the door to decide whether to make me wait longer, pay more, or go somewhere else.

2. The fact that some people whose home address is Mississauga or Brampton choose to come to Georgetown for emergency medical care has not stopped us from being the top performing hospital in Ontario for improving ER wait times and achieving a success rate of more than 92% when it comes to having ER patients admitted within the targeted time range for quality care.

In fact, thanks to people from outside Halton Hills using our ER, we have achieved patient volumes high enough to justify additional funding, a CT scanner license, two full-time surgeons, two full-time obstetricians and other benefits that would likely be unavailable with lower patient volumes.

3. The percentage of patients at Georgetown Hospital who are from out-of-town is right in line with the percentage found at hospitals across Ontario and, when asked, the people of Brampton and Mississauga do make charitable contributions to the Georgetown Hospital Foundation.

Approximately 12% of the Georgetown Hospital Foundation's donors live in these two communities. Most of these live in Brampton.

Halton Hills is extremely fortunate to have such an excellent primary care community hospital so close to home. With 24-hour emergency care, obstetrics, general surgery, long-term care and palliative care, just to name a few of the important services provided here, many of our families' healthcare needs can be met without leaving our hometown.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to the thousands of people in the community who generously support our important work. You are the number one source of funds for the equipment we need to provide the best care. We couldn't do it without you.

—Dr. Jeff Sutherland  
is Associate Chief of Staff,  
Georgetown Hospital

VISION 2000  
GROUPE VOYAGES - TRAVEL GROUP  
CRUISES & VACATIONS

Receive up to  
\$100 Onboard Credit per Stateroom

## EXCLUSIVE ONBOARD CREDIT OFFER

Book an Outside stateroom or above on one of our specially selected **Royal Caribbean Voyages** and receive:

**\$25 - \$100 per stateroom Onboard Credit**

Valid on new bookings made between

**May 16 - June 6, 2011**

**Call now to take advantage of this Exclusive offer**



Georgetown

328 Guelph St. Georgetown, ON T1C0 Reg #50018501

**905-873-2000**

VIRTUOSO MEMBER  
SPECIALISTS IN THE ART OF TRAVEL

Open Saturdays 9am - 4pm  
www.vision2000travel.com

Onboard credit is in U.S. dollars, has no cash value, is not redeemable for cash, is not transferable and will expire if not used by 10:00 pm on the last evening of the cruise. This offer is valid for NEW individual bookings only. THE OFFER CANNOT BE USED WITH CERTAIN FARES. This offer cannot be combined with any coupon on the same sailing. Offer is applicable to Outside staterooms and above, unless otherwise noted. Subject to availability. Offer is not combinable with any other promotion or offer unless expressly stated therein. Singles paying 200% are entitled to full face value. Discount applies on a per stateroom basis, double occupancy. Prices vary by ship and sailing date and space is subject to availability at time of booking. Ships registered in the Bahamas.



**IF IT'S NOT WORTH DRIVING, IT'S NOT WORTH BUILDING.**



2011 MAZDASPEED3

With over 120 international awards, the 2011 MAZDA3 is made for people seeking pure driving pleasure in a car that's anything but ordinary. Take advantage of extraordinary lease and finance offers today.

### 2011 MAZDA3

Lease from **\$169\*** per month at **2.9%** for 48 months with **\$1,795 down**

### 2011 MAZDA3 SPORT

Lease from **\$189\*** per month at **2.9%** for 48 months with **\$1,895 down**

GT model shown



GT model shown



For DSC-equipped models built after December 2010\*



★★★★★  
HIGHEST GOVERNMENT FRONTAL CRASH SAFETY RATING\*

OR

**0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS**

### MAZDA DELIVERY PROMISE

We promise that every new Mazda is ready to meet all your driving needs, starting with a comprehensive delivery inspection, a full tank of gas, fitted front and rear floor mats and our 24-hour Roadside Assistance with no administration fees. Get complete details at [mazda.ca/promise](http://mazda.ca/promise).

▼Based on Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. ♦U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) frontal impact rating for 2011 Mazda3 and 2011 Mazda3 Sport models. \*Offers available on retail leases of new 2011 Mazda3 GX (D4XS51AA00)/2011 Mazda3 Sport GX (D5XS51AA00) with a lease APR of 2.9%/2.9% and monthly payments of \$169/\$189 for 48/48 months, the total lease obligation is \$9,932/\$10,985, including down payment of \$1,795/\$1,895. Lease payments include freight and P.D.E. of \$1,495/\$1,495. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 8¢ per km applies. 24,000 km leases also available. PPSA and taxes are extra. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Leasing may not be available for all models. Lease offers vary by region and trim level/model. See [mazda.ca](http://mazda.ca) or your dealer for lease available vehicles. †0% APR Purchase Financing is available on new 2011 Mazda3 models. Example: using a financed amount of \$20,000, the cost of borrowing for a 60-month term is \$0, monthly payment is \$333.33, total finance obligation is \$20,000. Terms vary by model, see your dealer for full details. PPSA, licence, insurance, taxes, down payment and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order or trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers valid while supplies last. Prices subject to change without notice. Visit [mazda.ca](http://mazda.ca) or see your dealer for complete details.

**WHAT DO YOU DRIVE?**

TEST DRIVE A MAZDA TODAY OR GO TO [MAZDA.CA](http://MAZDA.CA) FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

ZOOM-ZOOM.