

Hospital's fate is in minister's hands

Once again, I want to report to you on my actions in support of the Georgetown Hospital emergency room and CT scanner renovation project.

On the afternoon of June 1, the McGuinty government shut down the Legislature unexpectedly. It is unlikely that the Provincial house will sit again before the October 6 election.

I used the final hours of the last day of the sitting to compose yet another letter to the Minister of Health, Deb Matthews, urging her to respond to the Town of Halton Hills' request for \$1.9 million (the text of my letter is posted on my website: tedarnottmpp.com). I then approached her again in the House, to hand deliver the letter, discuss its contents with her, and one last time seek her support for the project.

We had a cordial and polite conversation. As in our past conversations, she did not definitively say no, but neither did she say yes. She has indicated to me in the past that their "10-year capital plan" is still being finalized. This long-awaited plan is supposed to be released in 2011, and we expect they will release it sometime before the election.

I believe that in the coming weeks, the McGuinty Liberals will undertake a pre-election spending spree, featuring photo-ops with cheques and the promises of more cheques.

That's why I have worked so hard, in support of Town Council and the Georgetown Hospital, to seek a substantial pro-

Ted Arnott



vincial grant for our hospital project. I have spoken to the minister many times. I have spoken with senior staff in the Ministry of Health. I have written many letters to the minister and the premier. We have arranged meetings at Queen's Park. I have spoken about the project many times in the Legislature and in committee, on the record. We have hosted the PC health critic, Christine Elliott and she toured the hospital. We have raised awareness through numerous public statements, and a private member's resolution.

In my letter to the minister, I summarized some of the actions I'd taken. In conclusion, I asked her to step up to the plate, and said we look forward to her announcement.

I remain hopeful, and want to thank the mayor and council of the Town of Halton Hills and all involved with the hospital for their support.

—Ted Arnott is the MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills. He can be reached at 1-800-265-2366. His website address is www.tedarnottmpp.com

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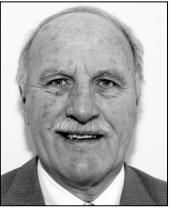
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Q: My husband just got transferred and we need to plan a move to Calgary. What steps do I need to take?

A: The first thing you should do is call a professional moving company like AMJ Campbell. Unfortunately there are many movers out there who are fly by nighters and will take advantage of families who are moving. At AMJ we treat your possessions like they are our own and your family like it's our family. We have Quality Assurance guarantees that will give you piece of mind during this stressful time.

As your local AMJ Campbell representative, I will personally visit your home and do a detailed walk through ensuring we evaluate everything that needs to be moved. We need to ensure that proper care is given to fragile and older items and make sure we have the proper size of truck and correct number of crew members on hand to do a great job for you on move day.

As Canada's largest coast to coast moving company we have locations across the country to ensure your move goes smoothly from start to finish, whether it's around the corner in Georgetown or across the country or even around the world!

When I visit your home I will leave behind a detailed check list that will enable you to easily look after things you need to before your move. I look forward to assisting you and your family on life's next great expedition to Calgary.

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Q: I entered into an Uncontested Separation Agreement 3 years ago, with no children involved, but have not progressed to a Divorce Agreement.

I now reside with my new girlfriend. After a specified period can my new girlfriend automatically acquire "common law status" in spite of the fact that I have not applied for a divorce from my wife on the basis of living separate for more than one year?

A: Your girlfriend would be considered to be a common-law spouse if you resided together continuously for three years or longer, were in a relationship of some permanence or if you are the natural or adoptive parents of a child.

As a common-law spouse, should you separate in the future, an issue of spousal support may arise if there is a need by one party. The length of time spousal support may be paid would depend on the length of your relationship.

There would be no sharing of property in a common-law relationship which includes bank accounts, RRSP's, pensions etc. if you have kept your finances separate. In some instances, property claims may arise in a common-law relationship. You should speak to a lawyer about your situation. A Cohabitation Agreement could protect you from spousal support and property claims.

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Q: What types of things do I need to do to properly maintain my home?

A: When we conduct inspections for buyers of homes, we look at some 400 items in the house; some structural, some safety and some maintenance items. However, once we leave the inspection, normally these things don't get checked again by homeowners. Every homeowner should be doing their own checks every 3 to 6 months. This includes replacing your furnace filter, test and replace batteries in smoke detectors, check ground fault circuit interrupters, check hand rails, check for a water heater temperature pressure relief valves, check the water heater temperature, clean out dryer vents, sump pump check and much more.

Every homeowner should put a plan in place to schedule in these simple checks and fixes. Go to HomeInspectorsHelp.com/homecheck-test and take our 6 question test to see if you're properly maintaining your home. It could save a life.