

Halton Hills getting better at giving the Gift of Life

30 per cent of Ontario residents registered

Georgetown and Acton rank in the bottom third of communities in the province when it comes to registering to be an organ and tissue donor, but those numbers have improved dramatically in the past few months in both towns, according to recently released statistics.

A new report from the Trillium Gift of Life Network looking at organ and tissue donor registration rates puts Georgetown at 117 out of 170 Ontario communities while Brampton sits at 167.

Yet the number of registered donors has increased since the rates were last updated in March, with Georgetown experiencing a 4.9 per cent rise in commitments fifth best in the province while Acton is up by 4.1 per cent, ranking 20th amongst communities in percentage increase over the last quarter.

Across the province, 30 per cent of Ontarians have registered to be donors. In Georgetown, that number is 35 per cent of the Health Card holders (13,013 of 37,248) and Acton's is now 34 per cent (3,776 of 11,182).

It's a little easier to get people to register in smaller towns, said Trillium Gift of Life Network president and CEO Ronnie Gavsie, because the importance of registering typically spreads by word of mouth and that the people of these cities and towns often have a closer connection with their neighbours than those living in bigger ones.

There are currently five active registration drives in Georgetown <https://beadonor.ca/community/georgetown> and two more in Acton <https://beadonor.ca/community/acton> affiliated with the Trillium Gift of Life Network.

Gavsie said the trick in big cities is to constantly hammer home the message of the importance of registration through the media.

She noted that whenever there are stories that focus on the individuals who benefit from organ donation, the network sees an increase in registrations.

Currently, there are 1,520 people on the medically-urgent waiting list for donations and every three days one of these people will die waiting for a transplant.

Registering to be an organ donor is relatively simple and those who do can potentially help a number of people as Gavsie notes that one donor can save as many as eight lives and aid dozens of others through tissue donation.

Those interested in registering can visit www.beadonor.ca or do so at ServiceOntario locations.

Meanwhile, Gavsie is also encouraging people to visit the website and follow the links to ensure they are actually registered as a donor.

Many people signed donor cards that came with their driver's licence in the past.

However, those aren't being used anymore.

With files from Chris Clay/ Mississauga News

GEORGETOWN GARDEN CENTRE

CLOSED MONDAYS

140 GUELPH ST. 905-877-8882

(The former Georgetown Fruit Market building)

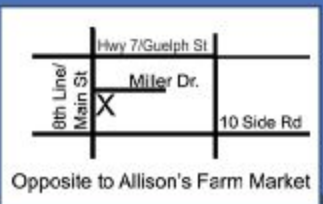
ONTARIO GROWN Bushels of ROMA TOMATOES	 GARDEN MUMS 3 FOR \$22.00 10" pot	FOR THE GARDEN Large Size Perennial Plants 3 FOR \$22 1 Gal Pot
LOCAL GROWN Super Sweet Peaches & Cream Corn Tomatoes Peaches	 MIXED ACCENT PLANTERS FROM \$19.99 Great colours & variety	FLOWERS & PLANTS Brugmansia from \$9.99 (Angel Trumpet) Top Soil 25 litre bag \$1.99



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