



**SAYING GOODBYE:** Halton Hills Council recognized members of Halton Hills Volunteer Ambulance Service at last week's council meeting. The volunteers received certificates of recognition including four Acton members, below. They are from the left Adrian Alder, Kevin Walker, Dave Boycott and Ken Campbell. While the volunteers have been replaced by full time service they were welcomed to apply for positions on that full time force. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

## Closing of cancer office deplored

Following is a copy of a letter sent to *The Toronto Star* on Sept. 27 and filed with *The New Tanner* for publication.

*Toronto Star,*  
Letters to the Editor,

RE: Please spare Georgetown cancer office, Letters Sept. 12 and Sept. 26.

This letter is written in response to Ted Wheatley's letter of September 26 when he rebutted Mayor Marilyn Serjeanston's letter and the imminent closure of our cancer office in Georgetown. I am one of the loyal and dedicated Georgetown volunteers to whom Mr. Wheatley refers to in his letter, in fact I am the president of the Georgetown branch of the Canadian Cancer Society. It has been my pleasure to serve with a large number of volunteers who make the lives of cancer patients more bearable.

In June the Ontario Division Board of the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) announced the closing of our office in addition to many others across the province, the closure was announced by an e-mail to our part time staff person. When our board questioned the decision we were told this was done after consultation with volunteers across the province, one official alluded to the 180,000 volunteers who work for the CCS, it seemed strange that NOT ONE VOLUNTEER from North Halton was contacted.

In response to what we felt was the wrong decision, we mobilized our volunteers and asked the officials from the CCS to come to Georgetown to explain the decision and how our patients and community would be affected. The meeting was held August 10, six weeks after the first announcement was made. Over 250 local people took time to attend looking for answers and hopefully to persuade the Ontario Board to reverse its decision. Many of those in attendance told of how cancer had affected their lives and what a comfort our local office and staff were to them

### Letters

during a difficult time.

The CCS presented no business plan, vague ideas on how North Halton would fit into the Oakville office and provided anecdotal success stories how closing offices had worked in other communities. In short no answers at all.

Our local executives after the meeting were more determined than ever to have this ill conceived plan changed. We gathered names on petitions more than 2,500 names in all, our local paper placed a Save our Cancer Office Coupon in the paper and over 2,600 were sent in. Local businesses changed their outside display signs to Save our Cancer Office. Letters were sent to the local papers and

to the CCS, the purpose to get them to look at their plan again. On September 12, officials from the Ontario Board returned to Georgetown. We were told the closing decision stays; they are right we are wrong.

With one last kick at the can I along with another volunteer, Mayor Serjeanston and representatives of the press travelled to Toronto to the head office of CCS, the purpose to deliver the petitions, coupons and letters from local residents. We were met in the lobby by Mr. Wheatley and our packages were turned over, after they returned to their offices upstairs while we stood down-trodden in the lobby, slighted once again.

The last line in Friday's editorial says it all, "To our readers, we appreciate your

support in this campaign but it appears we misjudged the officials responsible for this decision. We thought they cared."

Mr. Wheatley stated volunteers are more important than buildings, it's too bad we weren't treated that way.

Your truly  
Dianne Penrice  
President Georgetown Branch  
Canadian Cancer Society

## New church at Churchill

A new interdenominational outreach is beginning in Churchill Community Church.

Operated by A House of Prayer and lead by Rev. Helen Pasanen, the first being held Sunday, October 15, at 7 p.m. The focus is praise and worship.

Area residents since 1983, Rev. Pasanen was ordained in 1995 and is affiliated with Gospel Crusade of Canada. She has authored several booklets and a devotional. With more than 30 years service on various church boards and committees, she is presently prayer coordinator for Men and Women of Mission, an inter-church intercessory prayer group serving the community. She is on the Erin ministerial committee and is a graduate of the Canadian Institute of Christian Counselling in Toronto, holding a diploma in Counselling Practice. She is a member of the Evangelical Order of Pastoral

Counsellors of America and has a mobile chaplaincy service available for shut-ins and the elderly.

Her husband Art, retired as a nuclear reactor physicist nine years ago. He has been a Gideon since 1972.

The couple have been married for 38 years and has

three grown children.

Rev. Pasanen is looking for volunteers who can commit to at least one Sunday evening service per month to play the organ, piano, musical instruments or be on the worship team leading in singing. For an interview she can be reached at 853-3663.

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