

Minister intervenes to save OB at hospital

The Town is holding a "good news" rally tonight (Wednesday) at the Mold-master Sports Complex in Georgetown for many of the local protesters who were already homebound from a Queen's Park rally last Thursday when the Minister of Health stunned just about everyone in the Legislature by announcing he would stop the July 5 closures of the obstetrics and pediatrics units at the Georgetown hospital.

Also invited to the appreciation event were all those who inundated the powers-that-be with e-mails, cards, phone calls and letters asking that the units be spared.

The surprise reprieve was more than many – including Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette – had hoped for.

"It was a astounding turn of events," Bonnette said on Monday, adding "something happened, but we don't know what."

Bonnette said after the rally, he ran into Smitherman by chance in the Legislative cafeteria, introduced himself and asked for a meeting.


"He told me I had to deal with the Osler board, and I said been there, done that, and that's why we were there asking for him to intervene," Bonnette said, adding Smitherman said he had not made a decision on the Osler recovery plan, which includes

plans to close the obstetric and pediatrics units in Georgetown on July 5, and relocate them in Brampton to help offset a \$27-million dollar deficit.

Less than two hours later, Smitherman, in response to questions from NDP Leader Howard Hampton and Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh said his government would "stand behind the obstetrics program."

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Chong paints riding Tory Blue

Wellington-Halton Hills reverses red Liberal tide

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner



THE CHAMP: Conservative candidate Mike Chong and wife Carrie, were all smiles at the end of the night Monday after the ballots were all counted. Chong, one of 20 Conservatives elected in Ontario, drew a healthy 21,477 votes to defeat Liberal Bruce Hood who received only 19,173 ballots. – Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Plain old fashioned hard work was the secret to his success in Monday's election says Michael Chong, 32, newly elected Conservative member for the brand new riding of Wellington-Halton Hills.

Chong said from the outset he told his workers and volunteers to ignore opinion polls and concentrate on door knocking, erecting signs, answering telephone calls and plain hard legwork.

"I emphasized that throughout the campaign," he said. "We should keep our noses to the grindstone and let the chips fall where they may. It paid off. I'm very happy with the results."

A rural Fergus native, Chong defeated Liberal candidate Bruce Hood, of Erin 21,477 to 19,173. Noel Duignan, representing the New Democratic Party polled 5,974 votes while Brent Bouteiller of the Green Party picked up 2,733 and Christian Heritage Party candidate Pat Woode drew 826 supporters.

Voter turnout in the riding was 67 per cent, seven per cent higher

than the national average of 60.1 per cent.

Chong said he has made no decisions yet about where he will locate his riding office but given the size of the riding he feels he'll need two offices.

Since Georgetown is the largest community in the riding, he is certain he'll need to have an office there and since Wellington is the other half of the riding, he expects he'll also need to put an office in Fergus.

Youth sentenced to 9 months

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

The 17-year-old youth who killed Acton's Ray Getty said five words in youth court on Friday, but they did not include "I'm sorry" to the Getty/Bennett

Dead teen's parents say there's no justice

families who filled several rows in the court.

Those words would have meant something to Ray

Getty's dad, Brian Getty, who broke down crying outside the court after the teen who accidentally shot

his son was found guilty of criminal negligence causing death, and sentenced to nine months, six of it already served in custody, and probation.

"There is no justice for our family, for our relatives,

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SORRY!
Because of earlier printing deadlines imposed by Thursday's Canada Day holiday, The New Tanner was unable to publish a number of articles in this week's edition. They will appear in the first issue of July. Our apologies.

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