

# The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt

Photography: Ted Brown

Advertising Sales: Dianne Fascinato, Sharon Pinkney, Lana Walsma,

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Classified Manager: Carol Hall

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Production: Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell, Shelli Harrison, Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

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Mailing Address: 211 ARMSTRONG AVE. GEORGETOWN, ONT. L7G 4X5  
Telephone: 905-873-0301 Fax: 905-873-0398  
e-mail: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com



## Here we go again

The Halton District School Board has announced the layoff of 57 elementary school staff. While at first blush this may be bad news, we suspect not many will be out of work come September.

All the affected staff are first year teachers but, if past practice is any indication, they shouldn't necessarily be dusting off their resumes just yet.

After all, it was only two years ago when the board sent layoff notices to 1,501 teachers and other staff across Halton. It was a black day in the region, but by the time the summer rolled around, almost all of the teachers found out they would be staying in class.

This year, the crisis has been caused by the funding formula distributed by the provincial government. Less money means fewer teaching positions...at least for now.

However, every year, many teachers leave the board through retirement or because they've found new jobs. This attrition will mean most, if not all, the affected teachers should eventually get their jobs back.

Obviously, the union won't say if it believes its members will be back. If history repeats itself, though, affected educators shouldn't lose any sleep.



## Hockey dad's final lament

Dear editor,

This is a note to all those fathers and mothers getting up early on a Saturday morning to take their sons or daughters to hockey practice... standing in cold arenas clutching their coffees which have gone cold while laces were being tied and sticks taped.

This a note to those same parents later on driving their budding superstars all over the province for Monday night games or weekend tournaments, spending money on hotels in Buffalo over the March Break while the friends, without hockey players, go south.

I envy you. Sunday night I watched my 18-year-old son play his last competitive game. Oh, I'm sure next year he'll be playing some kind of hockey when he goes to university, but I won't be there to see it and besides, 19-year-olds don't expect their fathers to sit in the stands.

After Sunday night my winters won't be the same. As I sat through the last five minutes of the game I reminisced with my friend, Mr. Smith, about all

## Letter of the day

### Organ donation can save lives

Dear editor,

Each year, more than 1,500 lives are saved or enhanced by organ transplants performed in Canada, and a recent survey found that 90 per cent of Canadians support organ donation. While these numbers are cause for hope and optimism, they do not tell the whole story.

Hundreds of Canadians die each year waiting for a transplant. At any given time, over 2,800 Canadians are on waiting lists for organ transplant operations. The tragic fact remains: there are simply not enough organs and tissues available to meet the need. When one considers that a single donor can save or change as many as 25 lives, the loss of life seems even more senseless and tragic.

During an emergency situation, consent of a donor's family is critical to the organ donation process. Approximately one of every three organs that could be available for transplant are lost because family members do not know the wishes of their loved one. A family discussion of the issue can help ease the decision making process for a grieving family and ensure that their loved one's wishes are carried out.

The Mutual Group, in partnership with the transplant community, is working to raise awareness about organ donation in the hopes of increasing the number of organ donations. For this reason, April 23 has been designated National Organ Donation Discussion Day. Canadians are being asked to set aside time on this day to discuss their organ donation wishes with their family. Doing so can save the lives of many.

F. Elaine Irwin, Chair,  
The Mutual Group

those years, all those arenas, all those early mornings and late nights watching our sons play this game they love. This was the first game I can remember

when the result didn't seem as important as the fact that this was the end.

Dave Beavan,  
former hockey father

## PUD



## Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for content and length and can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com