

# The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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## Sensible approach

For quite some time now, Ontario's hospitals have been taking it on the chin from the provincial government.

They have been forced to cut back in a variety of areas. They have cut staff, services and even the number of operational beds, but now it seems that the Ontario government and Premier Mike Harris are prepared to put something back into the system.

While we've been subjected to long lines in emergency rooms and heard many of the horror stories, it seems the government of the day is now prepared to move ahead.

And maybe that's the way the system needs to work. The Tories have taken giant steps backwards in their funding of health care and now they are beginning to take small steps forward. Small steps that add up to big money— \$225 million over the next two years.

The province will spend an additional \$55 million to open up 1,700 long-term care beds. They'll ante up another \$75 million to allow hospitals to open temporary beds and they'll contribute \$94 million towards community-based services, such as Home Care.

Maybe, just maybe, the Tories have been following their own textbook all along.

After all, they can see the long lines in emergency rooms and when the final report emphasizes that fact they did the only thing they could— they used a little Common Sense.



## Guiders praised for their efforts

Dear editor,

I would like to take a moment to recognize a group of dedicated guiders who take many hours from their busy workweek schedules to provide opportunities for the girls of this community.

They spend countless hours planning weekly meetings, attending district events, organizing camps and countless hours of other training to help the girls develop the self-confidence and skills required to succeed in today's and tomorrow's world.

The talents, flexibility and capabilities of these people are endless and they provide a wonderful role model that can influence academic and athletic achievement of girls. Their reward is the smile on the face of a child who has met another challenge and is now ready for the next one.

On behalf of the girls, I would like to thank the guiders of Georgetown East for all their many hours of dedication. Guiders of Georgetown East, you are the best.

Carol Harper,  
District Commissioner,  
Georgetown East District,  
Girl Guides of Canada

## Letter of the day

### Paying tribute to volunteers

Dear editor,

With Volunteer Week wrapping up, I cannot help wondering— have we, as a community, done our part to honor our volunteers? Have we made the community aware of endless opportunities available to them in the volunteer sector. The following profiles hope to pay tribute to some of our present work force and will hopefully inspire others to join the team.

**Doug Anderson** has been driving for Meals-on-Wheels and the transportation pool. He is a volunteer visitor and spends a couple hours a week visiting with a senior. He also sits on a committee to advise on seniors program.

**Helen Dubeau** has been volunteering with Halton Hills Community Support and Information (HHCSI) for over 20 years. She began delivering Meals on Wheels and became a member of the seniors' activity committee helping plan Wheels-to-Meals (seniors luncheons) and is presently chairperson of the seniors planning and education committee.

**Noreen Alton** has delivered Meals on Wheels, has done volunteer visiting, worked on the reception desk at HHCSI, volunteered with OASIS and the special needs drop-in.

**Maddie Howat** has volunteered for many organizations including North Halton Distress and Information Centre, Georgetown District Memorial Hospital auxiliary, the Red Cross, Canadian Cancer Society and Meals on Wheels.

**Mary Dick** has held different positions with HHCSI, delivered Meals on Wheels and visited two seniors through the friendly visiting program.

**Arlene Bruce** does a variety of jobs including chairing the HHCSI's community liaison committee and planning and facilitating the seniors A Time For Me program.

After looking at the contributions of community volunteers, you may ask how can we honor them? The answer is not simple, but I feel we can start by recognizing their contributions and following in their footsteps.

Sue Haggith, volunteer co-ordinator HHCSI

## 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