

# The Independent & Free Press

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## It's about time

This week (April 18-25) is Organ Donor Awareness Week and the Multiple Organ Retrieval and Exchange (MORE) Program of Ontario, in partnership with the Kidney Foundation of Canada, is urging everyone to make their wishes clear to family members regarding organ donation.

To be sure, organ donation is not a typical family conversation topic, but it is imperative that, along with signing a donor card, your wish to donate any organs are conveyed to family members who will be asked for consent to donate your organs in the event of your death.

In Ontario, we have the longest transplant waiting list in Canada with 1,029 people needing organs as of the start of 1998. In 1997 there were only 162 Ontario donations.

Most people agree that organ donation is a good thing, but in Ontario less than half of the population has signed donor cards. As well, only 2 per cent of deaths occur in such a way as to make organ donation possible.

Heightened public awareness of the procedures involved in organ donation is at the top of MORE's list and during this week they are challenging all Ontarians to sign their donor cards and discuss organ donation with family members.

According to Graham Scott, who chairs MORE's board of directors, "It's far more likely that someone will need an organ transplant than become an organ donor. For all the people waiting for the life-saving call telling them an organ has become available, we need to make organ donation a priority in Ontario. It's about time."

Scott is right in that it is all about *time*. For someone needing an organ, time can be both a terrible enemy and a great friend. Your donation may allow someone else the chance to enjoy a summer's day, a concert in the park, a walk with a loved one. You could be a life-saver.

We urge all readers to sign their donor cards and relay their wishes to family members.

For more information call MORE at (416) 351-7328 or 1-800-263-2833 or visit their Web site at [www.transplant-ontario.org](http://www.transplant-ontario.org).



## Gardens land could be used by seniors

*(This letter was originally sent to Parallax Development Corporation, and a copy was made available to The Independent and Free Press.)*

Dear Owen Lawson,

I am a senior citizen of Halton Hills, a founding director, past president of Holcro Corporation which was formed to develop Cote Terrace Seniors Apartments at the corner of Maple and Main Streets. I remain a director of Holcro, with continuing interest in seniors housing.

Halton Region and Halton Hills deserve credit for their efforts in providing services to seniors who may require varying degrees of assistance.

A resolution was passed by Halton Hills council on October 5, 1998 that directs staff to report on policies or procedures to incorporate active and independent seniors housing accommodation into new developments.

It may interest you to know there is currently a petition circulating in the community in support of the Oct. 5 resolution by Halton Hills Council. This petition is directed to our elected representatives, housing planners and the development industry encouraging them to recognize and acknowledge the issue and to make every effort to ensure the provisions of adequate housing stock (singles, semis, town-houses, low-rise apartments), suitable

## Letter of the day

### Eggleton not the man for the job

Dear editor,

It is so sad that NATO did not think for a moment that this could be a very messy war.

I have heard nothing from the United Nations. Why?

Defence Minister Art Eggleton has mentioned ground troops as a possibility. Was this his own idea? It was a surprise comment that signalled a shift in policy.

I would never have chosen Art Eggleton as defence minister. I feel a gentleman who has been at war must hold the important position of defence minister—not a man who sits in an office. A non-army man is not the direction that is needed.

I want this war to end and not to become larger. I would also like my prime minister to speak out.

Kathleen (Molly) Crowhurst,  
Georgetown

for independent and active living.

It is noted through the local press that you have decided to go to the OMB over differences in the development of Dominion Gardens. There also appears to be some concern or discussion regarding the merits of the currently proposed high school and fire station on the same site. With this in mind it would be very much appreciated if Parallax would

explore the use of that particular section of land for a seniors community development.

Not only is it central with the necessary access to services but also a very timely consideration in the year 1999 which has been declared the International Year of Older Persons.

We look forward to hearing from you.

D.E. Christensen,  
Halton Hills

## 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 or 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](mailto:independent.freepress@aztec-net.com)