



September 6, 2000

A letter to the residents of Acton, Georgetown, & Milton:

Recently, the Ontario Division Board of the Canadian Cancer Society, composed of volunteers from across Ontario, decided to close offices with no staff or part-time staff across the province. This decision was made after a long review process and will result in a consolidation of resources and administrative tasks, freeing up staff time for increased support of volunteer activities and programs. Staff in affected offices, including the North Halton Unit office in Georgetown, have already been offered positions in neighbouring offices.

It is unfortunate that the closing of the North Halton Unit office has been interpreted as the Canadian Cancer Society diminishing its support in Georgetown. This is not so. The Canadian Cancer Society provides services across the province through its thousands of volunteers, the majority in communities with no physical office.

Last year almost 400 North Halton residents used our support services. Many of these people received transportation to and from cancer treatments, provided by about 70 Acton, Georgetown and Milton volunteers. These rides were coordinated by volunteers and staff - primarily on the telephone. Local support services, like peer support groups, are arranged by telephone through volunteer convenors and staff. These services will not be affected by the closing of the North Halton office.

There are other Canadian Cancer Society services available in Ontario. For some time now, information about cancer has been available by telephone through our cancer **Information Specialists (1-888-939-3333)**. For people living with cancer, their caregivers, family or friends, **CancerConnection (1-800-263-6750)** provides one-to-one support by telephone with trained volunteers who have had a similar experience. Our newest service is a **Smokers Helpline (1-877-513-5333)**, a free service available to anyone in Ontario who wants to quit smoking or is concerned about a loved one.

The Canadian Cancer Society remains committed to providing services to the patients in the community and to raising money to fund those services and research on all cancers. We pledge to continue to improve the lives of people living with cancer and to continue to work toward the eradication of cancer by funding research clinical trials and promoting risk reduction messages. This mission can be only achieved through your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Ted Wheatley
Volunteer President
Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario Division

For information about cancer or to connect to support services, please call toll free 1-888-939-3333 or visit our website at www.cancer.ca.