

Editorial

Caring givers

Volunteers with the VON Hospice Volunteer Visiting Program are very special people. There are more than 120 of them throughout the region making a difference in the lives of those suffering from life-threatening illnesses, and more are needed, particularly those who are available during the day.

While families and friends play an important role in caring for these gravely ill people, the VON Hospice volunteers not only help to support the client, they also lend their support to the family.

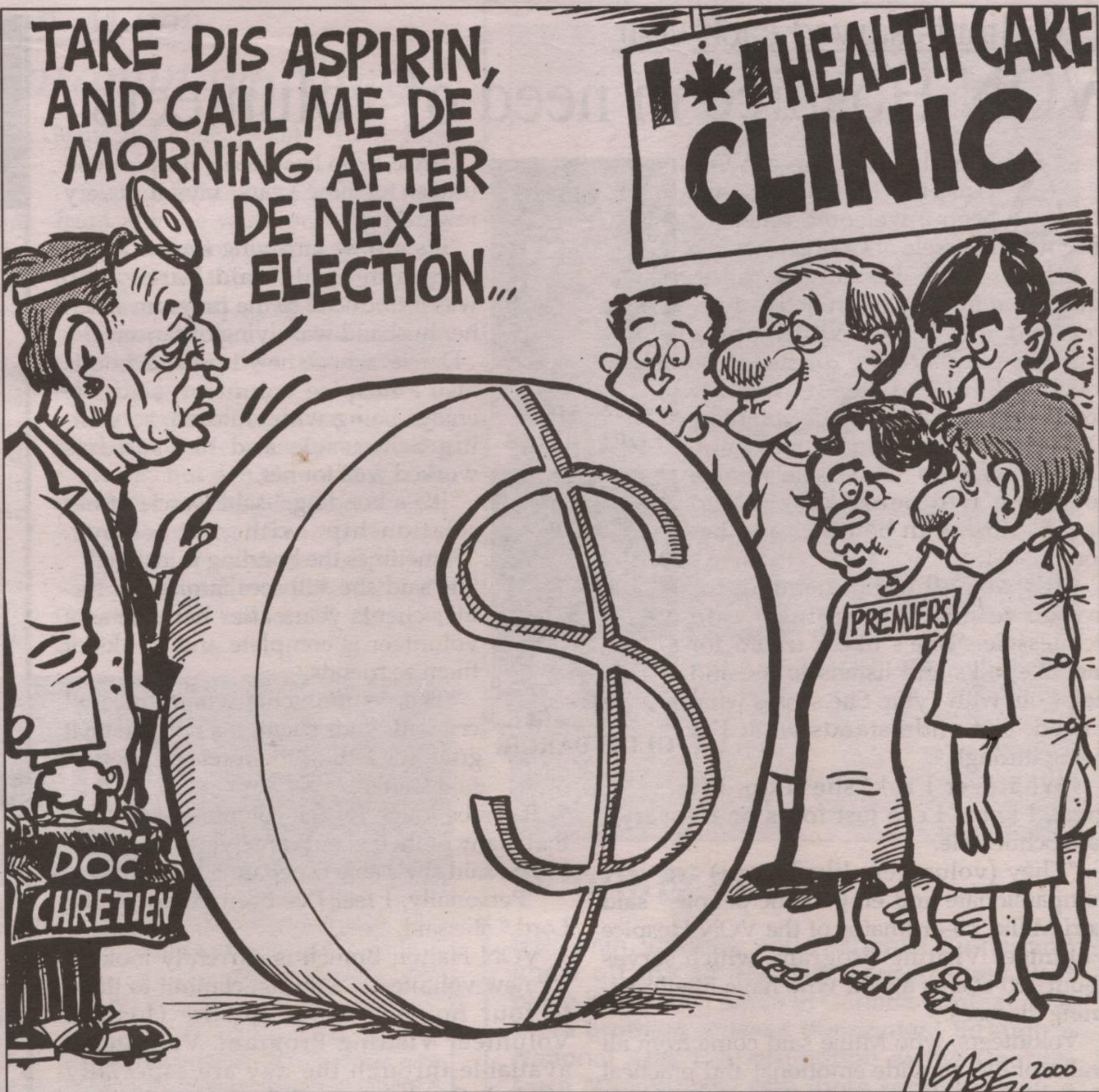
They provide emotional and practical support, relief for caregivers, support in times of crisis and assist in arranging community services and bereavement follow-up.

"She's like a friend for me. She talks and listens to me and helps with (my son) Tylor. She senses what I need. She understands what I'm going through," said Georgetown resident Jacquie Schuessele of her VON Hospice volunteer, Ollie Darcie of Rockwood.

While it may not be a job for everyone, Darcie who has been a Hospice volunteer for nine years, says she finds her role very rewarding and as satisfying for her as it is for the people she visits.

The VON needs more people like Darcie.

If you feel that you might be suitable for this volunteer position we urge you to call 1-800-387-7127 ext. 2312.



Letters to the editor...

Democracy in Ontario is becoming an illusion

Dear editor,

Kenneth Campbell's evocative letter to Education Minister Janet Ecker, published by your newspaper on August 30, is replete with innuendo and insinuation.

Mr. Campbell has suggested that "once again" he speaks on behalf of the civilized majority who endorsed the Common

Sense Revolution. He certainly does not speak for me and, contrary to what he would lead the reader to think, the civilized majority is not exclusive only to those who endorse the Harris government.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Campbell does not make any reference to the public representation responsibilities of elected trustees. They were once our direct connection with boards of education. Bill 74 put an end to that.

Public education is now further from the control of parents. Total power is in the hands of the minister of education and decisions cannot be challenged, even in a court of law!

Teacher frustration is not caused by a "monopolistic structure of the Ontario public school system", as Mr. Campbell proclaims. Teacher frustration is, in fact, caused by the "crisis"

orchestrated to erode public education to facilitate an agenda of privatization. Quality public education is a human right, a cornerstone of democracy. Make no mistake the crisis is massive.

For the record, the current human rights directives of the United Nations, alluded to by Mr. Campbell, were made to, and ignored by, the Ontario government. Democracy in Ontario is becoming an illusion. Ministers, such as Ms. Ecker and MPPs, like our Mr. Chudleigh, no longer bring the voice of the people to government. Instead, they have become the voice of government, bringing (and selling) the agenda to the people.

Bill 74 does not increase access to quality public education; it promotes exclusive privatization and inequality. This is hardly in the interest of the common good.

Don Crocker,
Georgetown

Good Samaritan proves this is a great town to live in

Dear editor,

On Sunday, August 20, as I was leaving Dairy Queen to get in my truck I accidentally dropped some of my important identification (driver's licence, ownership, OHIP card, SIN card etc.). I never even noticed it missing.

A short time later, an unknown gentleman appeared at my door to return these vital ID pieces to me. My daughter answered the door and she thanked the man profusely. I never had a chance to thank him. So I will thank him publicly through this newspaper.

Thank you sir for being so kind to inconvenience yourself by returning my ID to me. I wanted to thank you but you left so quickly. It saved me of the possibility of having to replace all those cards. It reminds me that people are good and that this is still a great town to live!

L. Visocchi,
Georgetown

For more letters see page 8

Send us your letters

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor.

All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters requesting names be withheld will only be published pending a valid reason at the editor's discretion. Letters should be not exceed 300 words and may be edited for content or length.

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