

Editorial

A waste of time and money

Accusations can be dangerous things. Accusations made haphazardly with little substance or fact behind them are even worse.

This is a lesson we hope Halton District School Board (HDSB) trustee Michael Ellis has learned.

Nearly four months ago, the Burlington trustee stunned the board by accusing the board of misrepresentation and abuse of bylaws, calling for an independent investigation, demanding the resignations of board chair Ethel Gardiner (also Halton Hills' trustee) and vice-chair Mary Chapin and asking the education ministry to take over the HDSB.

The seriousness of these charges compelled the board to hire an independent investigator, which they did. Now, four months and \$50,000 (plus legal fees) later, the investigation has revealed what many believed it would at the time it was launched: board officials have been cleared of any wrongdoing.

What prompted Ellis to take the drastic action he did may never fully be known as he has now promised he will resign. Good. He caused this unnecessary mess which resulted in a waste of time and money for board staff and trustees and ultimately the taxpayers of Halton.

His nit-picking about procedural matters and kow-towing to a group of disgruntled Burlington parents who don't want to see their near-empty school closed, so that others areas in Halton (including Georgetown) can reap the funding benefits that would result, won't be missed.

For years the Halton board was the poster-child for dysfunctional school boards with in-fighting and too many north vs. south battles. Under Gardiner chairmanship that situation has improved.

This was a headache the board didn't need and it is only right the person who brought it on leave the board.



Letters to the editor....

Nurse practitioners could ease situation

Dear editor,

On Sept. 26 *The Independent & Free Press* ran an article on addressing the shortage of physicians in Halton

Hills. Your article accurately portrayed the severity of the problem.

As a Registered Nurse employed in our emergency department, I continually encounter patients without family doctors, who are being forced to obtain primary health care in the hospital setting. This is not only cost-ineffective, but lack continuity for the patient and family. Lack of services within Halton Hills is an escalating problem as our population increases and ages.

The Town of Halton Hills has tried unsuccessfully to recruit family doctors and specialists prior to 2000. I believe we must look at alternative methods of providing primary health care to our community. A proven, cost-effective alternative would be to open a community health clinic staffed by primary health care nurse practitioners working in consultation with family physicians.

Primary health care nurse practitioners are Registered Nurses with advanced knowledge and decision-making skills in assessment, diagno-

sis and health care management. They are able to provide comprehensive health services to individuals of all ages, families and communities. They are able to diagnose, prescribe certain drugs and order X-rays, ultrasounds and laboratory tests. Nurse practitioners do not work in isolation, but rather, are a collaborative member of the health care team.

Numerous other communities utilize community health clinics and I strongly believe it would be an effective option for Halton Hills; however, the community must support and endorse the option. Political support from the town council, members of the community and physicians are imperative for the project to be initiated.

Perhaps the town council should look at this option and assess its viability. I would encourage anyone who is interested in health care in Halton Hills to discuss all the alternatives with members of town council.

Selina Godfrey, Georgetown

Golf tourney a success

Dear editor,

The first annual golf tournament held by the Halton Hills Chapter of the Spinal Cord Society was held on September 7, raising more than \$23,000.

Considering the tragedy that struck the lives of the people of New York City, along with the rest of the world, on September 11, I felt the numbing realization of the magnitude of what took place. The tournament's success was of the least importance at the time.

I have not let a day pass by without thinking of the terrible devastation that has been left for the victims' families and friends to piece back together. We all have experienced a great loss with the events of that day and I, along with everyone, will never be able to express all that we feel.

The mayor of New York has stood steadfast with the suggestion that all of us carry on with life so that the terrorists do not succeed in keeping the word terror etched in our minds.

With that thought in mind, I would like to thank the many businesses and service clubs for their contributions that helped to make the first annual tournament a huge success. Your prize donations and sponsorships were greatly appreciated. A good day was had by all.

Wayne MacDonald, Halton Hills Chapter
www.curenocare.com

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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