

**"I FEEL NAUSEOUS."  
"MY HEAD IS THROBBING."  
"THE ROOM IS SPINNING."  
"I'M GONNA BE SICK."  
SOUND LIKE FUN?  
KNOW YOUR ALCOHOL LIMIT.**

## ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SERVICES UPDATE

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) is currently on strike. The Government of Ontario has made a reasonable and responsible offer that is fair to employees and taxpayers, including an across-the-board wage increase of 1.95 per cent in each of three years and increases to address wage disparities in key occupational groups by offering ambulance/communication dispatchers and scientists an additional increase of eight per cent and nurses an additional increase of 10 per cent.

It is not possible to predict how long this disruption of public services will continue, however, the government remains available to resume meaningful negotiations at any time.

### Answers to your Questions

To further assist you we have provided answers to the most frequently asked questions we're receiving from the public about:

#### Government Payments?

- Ontario Disability Support Program recipients should receive their monthly cheque or direct bank deposit on time.
- Cheques will still be issued for the Guaranteed Annual Income Supplement payments to low-income seniors.
- Ontario Works (social assistance) cheques will continue to be delivered by the municipalities, which are not affected by this labour disruption.

#### Driver's Licences?

- If your licence expired on or after March 13, 2002, you can still drive until the end of the strike. This includes all classes of driver's licences.
- If your licence is suspended, the suspension will remain in effect until the strike ends.
- If your plate sticker expired on or after March 13, 2002, it must be renewed. This can be done at one of more than 280 private Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Offices throughout the province; they are listed in the blue pages of your telephone book. Payment is by cash only.

#### Health Cards?

- Your health number is still valid.
- You may be asked to fill out a health number release form by your doctor or hospital that they will use when filing with OHIP.

#### Medical Treatment for New Ontarians?

- New or returning residents can access health services, and as usual will be responsible for paying for those services. The usual three-month waiting period applies until new or returning residents are eligible for OHIP coverage.

For up-to-date, pre-recorded information on services,  
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or visit our website at [www.ontarioservicesupdate.com](http://www.ontarioservicesupdate.com)



### Closed local office in 2000

## Cancer Society looking to rebuild volunteer base in Georgetown

The local branch of the Canadian Cancer Society is hoping to rebuild its community support and a new base of volunteers after closing the Halton Hills office in November 2000.

Jim Pelot, president of the Brampton/Caledon/Georgetown and Dufferin Country unit of the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), brought that message to a recent meeting of Halton Hills council.

"All the patient services that were available before (the closing) are still available, however we are, given the unfortunate circumstances of 2000, having to rebuild the community support," Pelot said.

The unit plans to run its first CCS annual campaign next month in Georgetown since closing the office. That action had caused an outcry from its volunteer base in Georgetown prompting them to leave the organization and form Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CASHH), a completely independent group. CASHH also plans to run a campaign in April and, like the CCS, is knocking on doors this month recruiting volunteers. Most members of the Acton branch of the Cancer Society did not join CASHH, but instead became affiliated with the Wellington Country branch of the CCS.

Pelot, a Georgetown resident, said, "Although I can, I should, and I will apologize to the good people of Georgetown for the way in which the CCS handled the local office closing, I cannot apologize for what difficult decisions that are made in an organization that has dedicated its existence to the eradication of this disease. ...Every dollar saved on infrastructure that does not compro-

mise local patient support can be reinvested in research.

"Cancer is the bad guy in Georgetown ... as long as there is cancer in Georgetown, the Canadian Cancer Society will be here, supporting each and every patient, caregiver and survivor to the best of the volunteer and programs' abilities."

In 1999-2000, the last time the daffodil campaign was run in Georgetown, the community generated \$200,000. Fifty-one per cent of money raised in the campaign goes to research, 25 per cent goes to community programs such as transportation, 15 per cent goes to buying daffodils, and the remainder goes into provincial and national administration.



Pelot requested members of Halton Hills council support the CCS in the Georgetown community.

However, Councillors Moya Johnson and Joan Robson, showing the lingering sensitivity to the office closing still echoing in the community, say that decision should have been reviewed considering its low operational cost but strong donor and volunteer base in Georgetown.


"CASHH's success is predicated on 30 years by the CCS investment in the community of Georgetown," said Pelot. "The infrastructure (volunteer base) they are using to launch their service is in fact due to investment of the CCS and is one of the many reasons for their success."

He added the CCS has approached CASHH members a number of times about how the two organizations can work together in Georgetown, but as of yet, has not had formal discussions.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer


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