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Georgetown's Dr. Elliot Halparin Meet Ontario's top doc

A longtime Georgetown family doctor has been named the Ontario Medical Association's (OMA) new president.

Dr. Elliot Halparin, 52, who has been a physician in Georgetown for 24 years, is delighted to serve as president of the association which represents the political, clinical and economic interests of the province's medical profession.

He was inaugurated as the new president at the OMA's annual and general meeting on the weekend.

"It's really an honour to be elected by your peers to be an advocate for our patients and the profession," said Halparin, who believes all Ontario residents deserve a health care system that offers timely access to quality care.

Halparin, who will continue to operate his practice and maintain active in-patient and emergency privileges at Georgetown Hospital during his one year term as president, said it is a great opportunity to fulfill the mission statement of the OMA "to serve the people of Ontario and the medical profession in the pursuit of good health and excellence in health care."

One of Halparin's top priorities will be working toward achieving sustainable solutions to the province-wide doctor shortage which he called "the most fundamental problem facing medical care in Ontario today."

He stressed the doctor shortage is not just a rural or a northern problem, and the fact that Halton Hills, with all its attributes, has been declared underserved demonstrates the depth of the problem.

In his address to OMA council Saturday night, Halparin said the only way to meet the challenges of physician shortages is through a comprehensive strategy.

"The OMA has already made 18 recommendations, now it's time to discuss these recommendations with government and other stakeholders, and work together to implement practical long-term solutions."

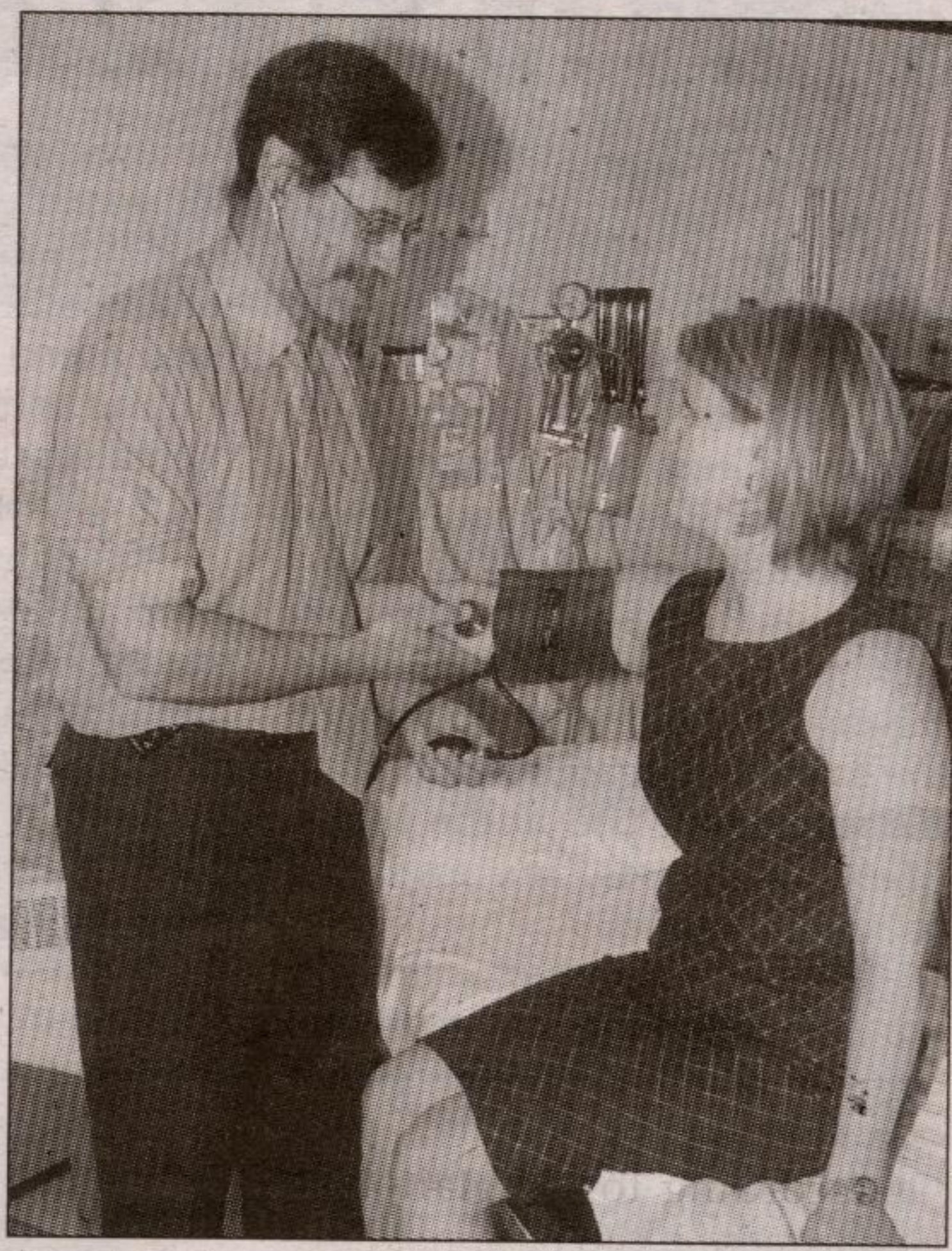
The sustainability of the health care system is another issue Halparin said the OMA is currently very involved in.

"We believe the system is under-funded," said Halparin. He added the OMA believes it's impossible to reform an under-funded system.

"While we support the principle of medicare we believe the Canada Health Act needs to be modified," he said.

To help ensure the provision of comprehensive primary care services to patients Halparin has been instrumental in developing the contract arrangements which allow doctors and patients to join Family Health Networks on a voluntary basis.

During his year as president Halparin also plans to address two important health policy issues—promoting the provincial adoption of tobacco control strategies, and addressing the problem of smog.



Newly-elected Ontario Medical Association president Dr. Elliot Halparin of Georgetown checks the blood pressure of Kari Cuss at William Osler Health Centre's Georgetown Campus.

Photo by Ted Brown

Other issues Halparin said he plans to work on include trying to reduce the "tremendous paperwork burden" on doctors, information technology and ensuring information between doctors and their patients remains confidential.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Cancer claims staffer

The Independent & Free Press has lost a member of its family. Longtime telemarketing representative Jeanette Cox died Saturday, May 4.

She was 53.

Cox, who battled breast cancer for the past four years, had worked as a telemarketer at *The Independent & Free Press* since 1990. Jeanette was an active volunteer in her home community of Erin, particularly with the Erin Fall Fair board.

"Jeanette was a very dedicated employee," said *Independent & Free Press* advertising/production manager Steve Foreman. "We will miss her enthusiasm and her love for life."

Cox is survived by her husband Larry, and her two children, Pam and Gregory, and one grandchild, Rylie.

A funeral service will be held today (Wednesday), 11 a.m., at Butcher Family Funeral Home, 5399 Main St. S. in Erin.



JEANETTE COX

Confident Kids Happy Parents

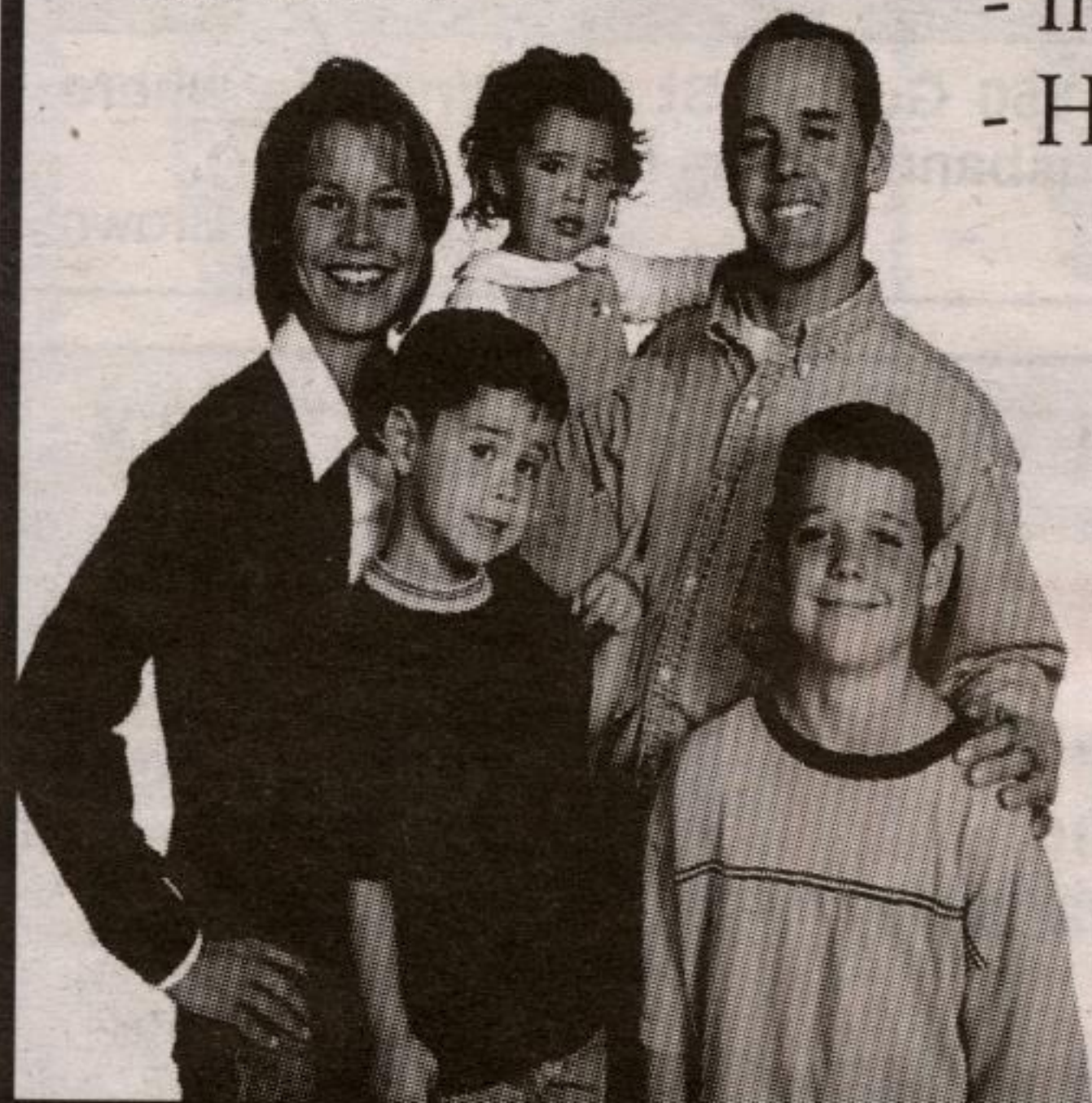
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