

Editorial

Who serves our youth?

The community has rallied to raise enough funds to keep Halton Hills' two youth centres open—at least temporarily. But now that youths will have a place to hang out until the end of June, what about during the summer months and beyond?

There needs to be a real discussion in this town about who provides services to our youth.

Councillor John Day sits on the Keeping Our Youth Doors Open committee, but he does so as a citizen, not as a council representative. The town believes it provides enough services to youth through its recreation programs and facilities—youth centres, it says, are not part of its mandate.

That's fine for the youths who want to play sports, but what happens to the ones who don't—or to the ones who do but because of frozen registrations, lotteries or lack of sports fields, lose out on this opportunity. Where do they hang out? Shopping centres, street corners, ravines and parks are likely, and often annoying, spots.

According to 1996 statistics posted on the town's own Web site, 9 per cent of Halton Hills population is over age 65—and the town funds two seniors centres. These stats also show the 10-19 age bracket makes up about 13 per cent of the population, but the town would not even sign on as a partner in the bid to get Trillium funding for the centres last December.

So whose responsibility is it to provide youth centres? And who is going to pay for them? Teens, parents and community members must all raise the level of discussion and must do it before the youth centres' doors close permanently.



Letters to the editor...

Doctor's death a great loss for the region

Dear editor,

Halton suffered a huge loss last week with the death of Dr. Len Landry. Over the years he had

treated patients in Georgetown, Milton and Acton.

Len cared deeply about his family. He was very concerned about the state of the environment because he could see how environmental contamination was affecting his patients, and so he worked with the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. When Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) was involved in the nine-year fight to keep garbage out of the Acton Quarry, right over our water supply, both Len Landry, and his wife Rita, spent countless hours working to prevent what would have been a disaster for the community and the Escarpment.

Len was passionate about football and those who knew him well, probably all have stories about Len and football that they still chuckle about.

But the way that most people knew him was as Dr. Landry. He had a rare and special gift of being able to connect with his patients.

They felt loved and supported. Because he listened well and looked at the surrounding details of their lives he was able to diagnose things early.

Several years ago when he had a stroke and had to take time off, his greatest concern was for his patients. The only long-lasting effect seemed to be a lack of stamina which caused him to cut back on the number of patients that he could see.

The most lasting memorial that we can think of to Dr. Len Landry's memory would be to see that his three children complete their higher education. A fund has been set up at Prosperity One (formerly Halton Credit Union) which has branches in Georgetown, Milton and Acton where donations may be made.

A memorial service will be conducted by Rev. Mark Curtis at the Grace Anglican Church in Milton at 1 p.m. on June 1.

Barbara and Ken Halsall,
Georgetown

Students plead for more funding

(This letter was sent to Ontario Premier Ernie Eves. A copy was made available for publication.)

Dear Premier Eves,

As members of the School Council of Acton District High School, we are writing to express our concerns about the inadequate university and college funding formula for addressing additional student spaces required due to the double cohort class.

On Feb. 6, Nelson High School council hosted an information evening attended by representatives from 26 Ontario post-secondary institutions.

The colleges and universities stated the current funding formula for increased student spaces is inadequate and the the ability to hire additional faculty to provide a quality education for the increased student numbers is seriously hampered by not receiving funds until the spring of 2004.

Our students will be entering the universities and colleges in September 2003. Although your government has stated that qualified students will receive a place in our province's colleges or universities, the place may not be a preferred choice of the student or parent due to the restrictions on numbers of students a college or university can accommodate due to the infrastructure funding model.

We urge you to reconsider the funding formula so that the first year college or university class of 2003 can be assured of the highest quality education for which our post-secondary institutions are known.

Dan Green, ADHS, council chair

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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