

# Health Care

**CRANFIELD CHIOPRACTIC CENTRE**  
 518 GUELPH STREET  
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ROBERT H. CRANFIELD D.C.

## HEALTH DIGEST

### Sunset Brunch and Silent Auction

On Nov. 17 the Halton Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada (CCFC) will host its third annual Sunset Brunch fund-raiser at The Water St. Cooker in Burlington. Proceeds will support those who suffer from IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease). The brunch includes a silent auction, a wandering magician and crafts for the kids. Tickets cost \$25 per person (\$10 for children 10 and under). Doors open at 4 p.m. and the buffet begins at 4:30 p.m. Tickets, however, must be purchased in advance. For tickets or more information about the event, contact the Chapter at 905-381-0258 or through e-mail at halton@ccfc.ca

### Cancer Society seeks volunteers

The Canadian Cancer Society (Brampton/Caledon/Georgetown/Dufferin County Unit) is looking for volunteers for its spring Daffodil and Residential Campaigns. Various volunteer opportunities are available, ranging from assisting in the planning of the campaigns to selling daffodils. In April 2003, the unit hopes to raise \$112,000 and \$183,500, respectively. Funds will be directed towards cancer research and the programs and services. Call Daniela at 905-451-4460 or 1-866-711-0111 ext. 21 for a volunteer application form and a training session that will be scheduled in late November or early December.

### Halton hosts prenatal classes

Halton Region Health Department's Healthiest Babies Possible prenatal program, held Thursdays at the Bennett Centre, is accepting registrations. Sessions include Off To A Great Start, Getting Ready, Your Baby's Birth, Breastfeeding, The First Year After Birth and Caring For Your Baby. Attend the series or individual session. The next series begins Nov. 21. To register/info call 905-693-4242, ext. 7899 or 1-866-442-5866, ext. 7899.

## WOHC is first to hire ethicist

**W**illiam Olser Health Centre has hired an ethicist, becoming the first regional hospital in Ontario to do so.

Dr. Paula Chidwick is an ethicist who has been educated and trained to assist with ethical problems that arise in health care and research settings.

In the field of medicine, ethics come to play in every interaction between patients and caregivers, caregivers and families of patients as well as between caregivers themselves.

For example, if a family insists that everything be done for their loved ones, but the medical staff believes that more treatment is futile, what should the staff do? This is where the ethicist comes into play.

"My role is not to decide what is right or wrong in a situation," said Chidwick. "I am a resource for staff, family and patients who are faced with difficult ethical issues that cause moral distress and moral residue. Moral residue occurs when your integrity is compromised because you have to do something that may be contrary to your beliefs, values and principles."

"In a case such as a family demanding treatment for their loved one, I would act as a



**Dr. Paula Chidwick, a specialist in ethics, has been hired by William Olser Health Centre as the region's first ethicist.**

resource for medical staff and family helping them with the question of what should we do? Should we provide treatment or not? An ethicist would facilitate communication between the family and staff, provide conflict resolution if necessary and negotiate a resolution."


Ethicists have backgrounds in law, medicine, philosophy, theology and often, one of the various health professions, as well as special training in bioethics.

Chidwick brings to her role extensive academic and clinical training in bioethics. She received her Ph.D in Philosophy from the University of Guelph, specializing in Ethics and Bioethics and recently completed a one-year Clinic Ethics Fellowship at the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics. During the past 14 years Chidwick has provided consulta-

tion services, education, policy development and research in various health care settings. She has taught at the University of Guelph, Sir Wilfrid Laurier University and most recently, the University of Toronto.

At William Olser Health Centre, Chidwick will provide consultation services, education on ethical issues, policy development and research in bioethics. In the past much of the burden around ethical issues fell on the people directly involved in the case of the patient and the family—most often on an ad hoc basis. Now Chidwick can be called upon to address the ethical issues involved in these situations and provide the proper support.

Chidwick's goal is to imbed ethical considerations into all aspects of decision-making at WOHC.




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