

Editorial

The gift of life

Likely buried somewhere inside your wallet or purse, or perhaps in a drawer in a desk at home, is something that can save the life of a loved one or a complete stranger.

Yet many of us are oblivious to this simple life-saving device and many more simply choose to ignore it.

"It" is your organ and tissue donation card.

The card comes with your driver's licence renewal form and at OHIP card renewal time. But, filling out the card is not enough to become a donor, potential donors must also discuss their wishes for donation with family members.

In fact, the deceased's family alone can decide to donate a loved one's organs. However, it is still best to make your wishes known to spare family members any grief in what would surely be a traumatic time.

The need for organ donation in Canada is great, according to Darwin Kealey, president and CEO of the Trillium Gift of Life Network, which co-ordinates organ and tissue donation across the province.

"In Ontario today there are 1,757 people waiting for a transplant. Unfortunately of that number, 110 people on that waiting list will die before the year is over."

Many of those deaths need not occur as the success rate of kidney, heart and liver transplants is all in the 90 per cent range.

Local residents Sara Murray and Jason Pacheco, featured on the front of today's edition, are living proof that organ donation works and something we should all consider.



Letters to the editor....

Don't take veterans or freedom for granted

Dear editor,

Reading the stories of the veterans in the newspaper (Nov. 7) was interesting. Did everyone take the

time to read these stories? Has the paper already been recycled and life goes on? Did you shake the hand of a veteran? Call one? Do you even know you probably have a neighbour who is one? Did you make an effort at all?

Being a flight attendant for 30 years, most of those trips overseas, helps me to realize how fortunate we are—if you didn't already know.

Have you ever been to a country where you feel a little uncomfortable or not so safe? If not, maybe you should so next year you'll sing *O Canada* out loud instead of standing there quietly.

We've had people board the plane from faraway places and say, "We are home!"

"Oh no," I say, "You still have eight hours to go."

But on a Canadian plane they already feel like they have their feet on Canadian soil. They can go to the school of their choice, drink the water, have any type of food, practice their religion openly and be

proud of their ancestry. They do not have to pass guns to enter a bank. We are comfortable and safe.

It's not too late to look up a veteran and invite him/her to dinner. Listen to their stories and you'll be amazed how little you know. This person—your neighbour, your friend's grandfather, the person you should have visited in the old age home—can be very interesting.

Then watch CNN or plan a trip that may take you out of your comfort zone. We are so blessed. Never forget it.

Helen Stapleton, Georgetown

Paper, mayor congratulated

Dear editor,

Congratulations on an extremely well-written editorial Nov. 5.

For some reason, I hadn't read it before the election. I nearly fell off the sofa when Rick Bonnette's name came up as Halton Hills mayor. (I had voted for Kathy Gastle, as I felt she had done a great job during her term.)

I immediately went to the kitchen and found *The Independent & Free Press* and read the editorial. Aha! Congratulations to Rick, we remember you from our "fruit market days" on Hwy. 7.

Integrity and hard work paid off and we wish you a successful term as our mayor.

Marion Vito, Georgetown

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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FoodShare appreciated food drive support

Dear editor,

We want to thank everyone who was involved in the Scout/Guide Food Drive. All the young people, their leaders and parents, worked together to organize, collect and sort more than 9,000 lbs. of food and \$300 in monetary donations.

This annual event brings in the food needed to provide for the winter months

ahead, and is so much appreciated by the FoodShare, and by those in need in our community.

Thank you for caring and sharing,

Eileen Dix,
The Acton FoodShare

More letters pgs. 8, 11, 12

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