

Woman who stopped to assist accident victims thanked

Dear editor,

I would like to thank a kind and caring lady who would not give me her name so I could thank her. So, I would like to do it publicly.

This wonderful person stopped to assist my son and his friend, until I could arrive on the scene, after a driver on Guelph Street hit his car November 12.

Good things come to those who give of themselves. I hope that you will get good things many times over in return.

Mary Bowman, Georgetown

Letters to the editor Public health nurses seeking 'respect' at the bargaining table

Dear editor,

Public health nurses have been called the "public's safety net." They work to maintain the wellness of individuals, families and communities. They respond with commitment, care and sensitivity as new or urgent issues emerge.

Caring and dedicated nurses work in clinics, track communicable diseases, support community partners, provide education, work in schools and workplaces, and visit in the home. Their work in Halton focuses on all ages and stages, from infants to seniors. During the SARS episode, nurses employed by Halton Region were diligent in accommodating and supporting our employer and the community.

Halton Region's public health nurses and registered nurses have been working without a contract since April of this year. In September, contract negotiations broke down over a number of key issues. The members of ONA Local 001 went to conciliation on November 20.

As nurses, we are concerned for our community. Halton residents deserve competent and skilled public health nurses. As the nursing shortage continues to grow more acute in Ontario, nurses employed by the Region of Halton are asking for an employer that values, acknowledges and fairly remunerates nurses.

Halton Region wants nurses to accept a wage that is as much as \$7 per hour less than they could earn elsewhere in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Their sick leave benefits are the worst in the GTA. Part-time nurses currently get no sick leave at all. We are asking the Region of Halton to be fair and equitable compared to other health units and to recognize our skills, competencies and abilities.

Halton is among the wealthiest municipalities in the GTA and in Ontario. The region should make it a priority to pay its public health nurses as well as other GTA communities do.

When public health crises like SARS arise, the community says nurses are 'heroes'. That respect and appreciation should not suddenly disappear when nurses go to the bargaining table.

Ontario Nurses Association,
Barb Wahl, RN, BA
president

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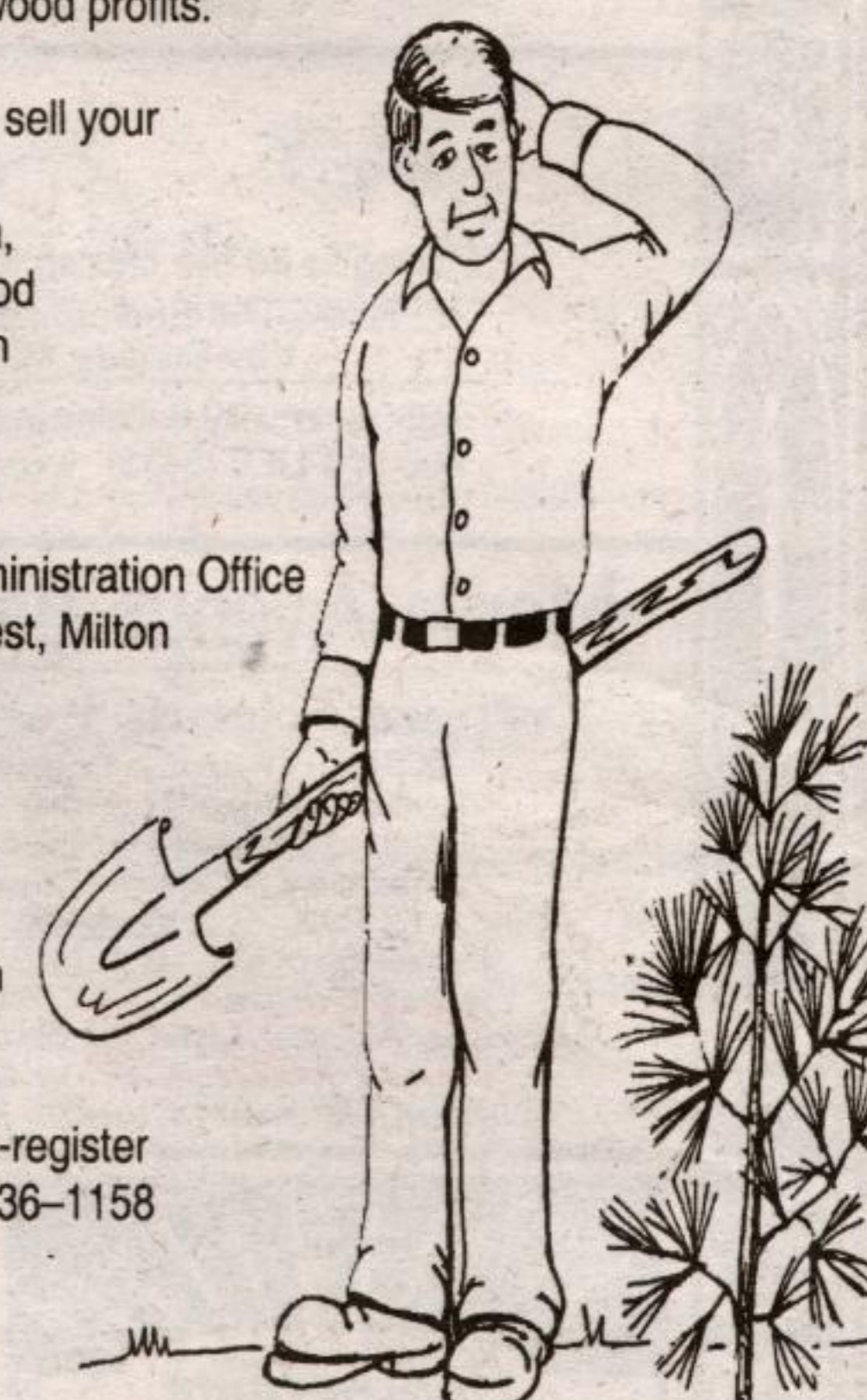
Where: Conservation Halton Administration Office
2596 Britannia Road West, Milton

When: November 29, 2003

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10.00 includes information package and a light lunch.

For further information and to pre-register please call, Bill Gaines at (905) 336-1158 ext. 261.



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