

Editorial

Cancer can be beaten

Friday marks the start of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Sometime, in the not so distant future, it is our hope that we will no longer have to write editorials such as this.

A cure for this insidious disease will have been found and the lives of thousands of women will have been saved. But as so many of us are acutely aware, breast cancer deaths comprise the second highest cancer death rate, after lung cancer, among Canadian women.

Consider this, despite major advances made in treatment and detection, breast cancer is still the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women.

According to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, an estimated 21,200 women will develop breast cancer in 2004, and 5,200 will die from it. While certainly not as prevalent, men, too, die from the disease. An estimated 145 men will be diagnosed with this form of cancer in 2004, and 45 will die from it.

But this editorial is not all doom and gloom and we are saving the best news for last. The foundation says mortality rates from breast cancer are currently at their lowest since 1950.

However, there is still a long road to travel.

We can help ourselves by maintaining a healthy lifestyle: no tobacco products, sensible eating habits, and being physically active.



Letters to the editor...

Library staff appreciate support for programs

Dear editor,

The staff at Halton Hills Public Library would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to

everyone who helped make our summer reading programs such an incredible success.

Our two fabulous summer students, Sarah Venema and Christine Elliott, kept kids reading and provided programming for hundreds of children. Thank you to the student volunteers who helped, and to those parents who encouraged their children to participate. Many parents reported seeing an improvement in their child's reading level by summer's end.

We would like to express our gratitude to Monique Bartolomeo at TD Canada Trust, Guelph Street branch for providing prizes. Finally, a special thank you *The Independent and Free Press*, Acton Tanner, Cooper-Standard Automotive, and Brian's Food Basics for promoting our programs. We look forward to more fun next year!

Halton Hills Public Library
Children's and
Youth Services Staff

Drive-thrus pose a dilemma for ambulances

Dear editor,

I have a problem. I love coffee; I admit it. I can often be seen frequenting the Tim Horton's drive-thru on Mountainview Rd.

Recently I followed a Halton ambulance into the drive-thru. As we maneuvered around the very narrow entrance I got to wondering: what would happen if they get a call? There is no way they are going to get through here in a

hurry. There is nowhere to pull over, and getting a dozen cars or so to back up will be a real challenge.

Fortunately, that didn't happen—at least until the ambulance had cleared the coffee window by all of 20 feet... then suddenly the lights went on. Hopefully it was just coincidence.

Sharon Foster,
Halton Hills

Climbing wall a success

Dear editor,

As we watched the hundreds of climbers going up and down the climbing wall at the recent Georgetown Fall Fair, we were reminded of how much fun it is for a church to be involved in the community.

This is the second year, The Gathering has had the privilege of sponsoring the climbing wall for the adventurous and daring. We want to express our appreciation to all our church volunteers who put in hours to help make it happen and to the employees of Fun First Climbing who kept the children safe and encouraged them to reach the top.

We also want to say thanks to all those who donated box to the Georgetown Hospital. The total amount was \$505.20.

Rev. Noel and Rev. Marilyn Draper,
The Gathering

Teens' concern was greatly appreciated

Dear editor,

While shopping at Loblaws recently, I began to feel very ill. I had to stop and rest because I was in pain due to some surgery I'd had earlier.

Three lovely teenaged girls stopped and asked if I was okay. They helped me to my car and carried my bags. No adults seemed to notice.

My thanks to these three caring girls. God bless you for your compassion.

M. Morris, 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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