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Health minister offers assurance hospital has 'a very proud future'

"Thank-you!" was the message that came through loud and clear from members of the community to Ontario Health Minister George Smitherman at a Liberal fund-raiser Wednesday night.

Georgetown physician Dr. Don Trant presented Smitherman with a "Save Our Hospital" t-shirt and said, "thank-you for the future," at the event hosted by the Halton Liberal Riding Association at North Halton Golf Club.

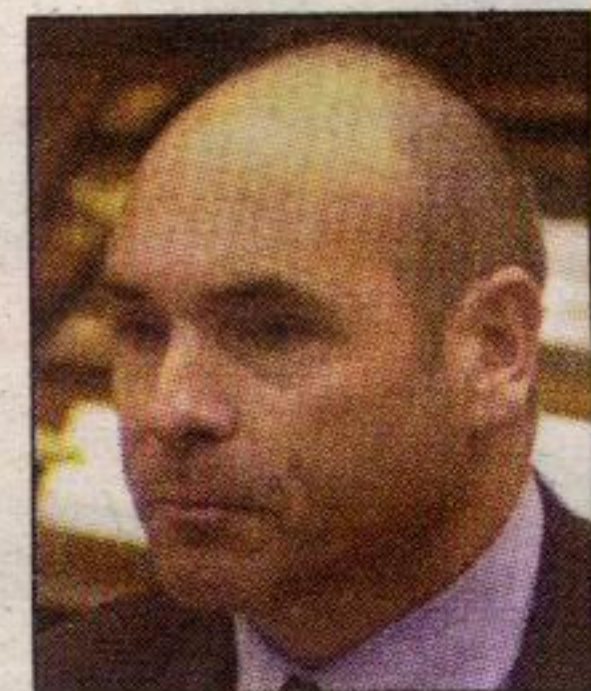
"What you have done for this town during the last few months in ensuring the future of Georgetown Hospital is just extraordinary," said Trant.

During his address, Smitherman sent a message to the community.

"The hospital that you so clearly love is a hospital that has a proud, proud history," said Smitherman, at the event that drew about 100 people including area doctors, Mayor Rick Bonnette and councillors. "I stand before you today to offer you this assurance—that the hospital you have been very proud to support has a very, very, very proud future."

But after the fund-raiser, when asked about the hospital's future, Smitherman said, "we've got to work our way through that."

He said each hospital in the province needs to have "a unique role" that is well defined and "make sure its connected to its local community."



GEORGE SMITHERMAN

See SMITHERMAN, pg. 5

Getting into the Halloween 'spirit'

In a set that resembles *Pirates of the Caribbean* (without Johnny Depp) local pirate Evil Ash (also known as records clerk Ashley Mancuso) sorts through her treasure chest at the Town clerk's department Thursday. Mancuso took time out from administrating to the needs of the Town of Halton Hills' Davey Jones locker (which holds the records) to compete in the annual Halloween decorating contest in which town departments vie for top decorating honours.

Photo by Ted Brown

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