

# OPINION

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## Thanks, doc

Have you hugged your doctor lately?

If not, you might want to at least give him or her a pat on the back for a job well done, after all it is Halton Physician Appreciation Week.

As we all know, good doctors are hard to come by even though Halton Region has been working feverishly (no pun intended) to attract physicians to this area.

The Halton Physician Recruitment Initiative was established in 2003 to address this region's shortage of family doctors. To date, more than 60 new family physicians have established a practice here.

The initiative is a collaborative effort between Halton Region, local municipalities, physicians, senior area hospital staff and the community.

"Each year during Halton Physician Appreciation Week we encourage residents to join us in reflecting on how much we value the doctors who practise within Halton's medical community," said Halton Chair Gary Carr.

The region's physician recruitment co-ordinator Angela Sugden Praysner, said retaining doctors in Halton is just as important as recruiting them here.

"Like everyone else, doctors appreciate knowing that their efforts are recognized. We want them to spread the word to their colleagues that Halton Region is a welcoming and rewarding place to live and to practise medicine," said Angela Sugden Praysner.

The Province, too, recognizes the urgent need to recruit more family physicians.

A centre set up to help foreign-trained medical professionals land a job here recently marked an important milestone. Since the Access Centre for Internationally Educated Health Professionals opened in December 2006, 67 of their International Medical Graduate (IMG) clients have been accepted to a medical residency program in Ontario.

That number is impressive, since many residents in Ontario face a doctor shortage and far too many highly-skilled immigrants are working in menial jobs.

"People in this province need better access to physicians," said George Smitherman, Ontario health minister. We couldn't agree more.

As the baby boomers continue to age, the pressure on the provincial health care system will become even greater. Many doctors are looking toward retirement as well, and we suspect that within the next five to 10 years the need for physicians could reach the critical stage.

### What do you think?

Below are the results of our most recent online poll. For the current poll go to [www.independentfreepress.com](http://www.independentfreepress.com)

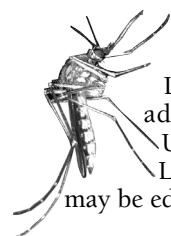
Is the high price of gasoline making you alter your normal driving habits (i.e. causing you to drive less)?

Yes (77%)

No (22%)

### Something bugging you?

Send us a letter!



Letters to the editor must include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited for content and/or length.

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Steve Nease



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Editorial diminished 'strength of youths'

Dear editor,

As a youth of Acton I feel the May 14 editorial—Lowest of the low—was an unnecessary write-up about an unfortunate event that happened to the Remembrance Park cenotaph and the Fairview Cemetery.

I don't mean to downplay the occurrence because it was wrong, but we need to recognize and talk about more positive things youth have done—not just the bad.

Your article did show recognition and thanks, but only for a few lines. The rest of the piece put youth

down, assuming that—without proof—the recent vandalism had been committed by "young adults."

I agree the recent events are disgusting, but why so quick to assume youth are the "hoodlums" responsible when it could have been anyone? Choosing to take this position in your editorial diminished the strengths of youth that the International Youth Week supplement was meant to portray.

We invite you, your writers and your readers to attend Acton Youth's Chance for Change in Prospect Park

on May 24. This event is planned to celebrate the contributions that youth make to our community each and every day.

Tyara Woodrich,  
committee member,  
Acton Youth's Chance for Change

### Shame on NEC for decision on BMX track

Dear editor,

I read with shared despair the article about Tim DaSilva's BMX Track at Halton Place and shame on the Niagara Escarpment Commission. I cannot believe that this young man's dream will not live on after his death.

I have read about the problems that Halton Place has faced with its neighbours. With the constrictions of owning a country property in these times, living with the NEC and the Greenbelt, it is hard for all of us to be able to use our land and make a living. Maybe Halton Place should be converted back to a pig farm instead of a world class equestrian facility. My guess is that the smell and sounds will not be the picturesque countryside the neighbours want either.

We all moved to the country for a different lifestyle but we all still live in southern Ontario where we live in fairly close proximity to our neighbours.

Kudos to Halton Place for keeping up the fight.

Diane McFarlane,  
Acton

### Youth provides tips on how to save the planet

Dear editor,

Would you like it if global warming damages your town? I sure wouldn't.

Here are some of the problems that are going to happen. If we don't stop polluting the environment, the seasons would stop changing. If we would stop polluting and clean up the planet the ice caps wouldn't melt and flood the Earth. I think that we should stop polluting because it will ruin the atmosphere and there will just be piles of garbage everywhere.

If we stop using greenhouse gases it would stop destroying the ozone layer. If the ozone layer was gone we wouldn't have anything to protect us from the sun's rays.

Cleaning or replacing your air conditioner filters increases efficiency and makes it run in peak condi-

tion. Filters can be found along the length of the return duct in walls, ceilings, furnaces, or in the air conditioning unit itself. In window units, filters may lie inside of the air conditioner or they may slide out.

Planting trees removes carbon from the atmosphere, filters air, and prevents soil erosion. It's best to plant trees native to your area that don't require heavy irrigation.

Handle the gas pump with care and avoid topping off. Spilled fuel evaporates and causes air pollution. Also, try to buy gas during cooler times in the day or during evening hours when there is less evaporation.

Parents, we are looking up to you to because you have to make the world a better place.

Zach De Sousa,  
Georgetown