

Wright wins Dawkins award

At the recent Town of Halton Hills Youth Volunteer Awards, Charlie Wright was named the recipient of the Neal Dawkins Award, awarded for mentorship, creativity, leadership and respect. On hand for the presentation were (from left) Town of Halton Hills Director of Recreation Terry Alyman, Charlie Wright, Maria Dawkins and Mayor Rick Bonnette.

Photo by Ted Brown



Off-loading cash infusion a 'Band-Aid'

STEPHANIE HOUNSELL
Special to The IFP

A one-time infusion of cash may help deal with Halton's hospital offloading delays, but Region staff and councillors aren't holding their breath.

"It certainly won't hurt and it may be of some help," said Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal at the Region's health and social services committee meeting last week.

The Region is poised to receive a grant from the provincial government for up to \$125,000 that will go toward nurses who will specifically receive ambulance patients in hospital emergency departments (ED), states a staff report.

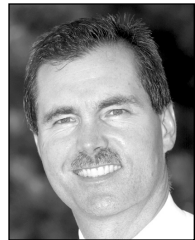
They'll provide patient care and supervision of five or six patients at a time until the hospital can take over, allowing EMS resources to return to the community.

The funding is for the 2008/09 fiscal year.

"Ideally, this would eliminate the majority of offload issues during periods of peak demand," the report states.

Offloading delays occur when a hospital is at-capacity and can't provide a bed for a patient brought in by ambulance. Paramedics must therefore

continue providing care to the patient at the hospital, usually in the ED hallway, preventing the ambulance from leaving and being used for another emergency.



DR. BOB NOSAL

They're sometimes there for up to 13 hours.

Last year in Halton, there were several occasions when no ambulances were available to respond to local calls.

The amount of time lost to offloading delays each day is equivalent to two ambulances being out of service for an entire 12-hour shift, Nosal said.

That added up to about \$1.4 million in lost vehicle staffing last year, Nosal told the councillors.

Halton's is one of 14 EMS services in Ontario receiving the funding.

Regional Chair Gary Carr said it seems the Province has given this relatively small amount simply to say it's done something.

"We need to say, 'Thank you minister for that, but this in no way is going to help with the problem.'"

The money will fund one full-time

equivalent nurse— but isn't enough for two— and council must decide to which of Halton's four hospital EDs the nurse will go, Nosal said.

He said the worst off-loading issues are at Burlington's Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital.

There's also the question of what to do if that one nurse gets inundated with patients, he said.

Committee Chair Jeff Knoll agreed it's not enough money.

"It's a Band-Aid, but the Band-Aid is too small," he said.

Jim King, director of Land Ambulance Services, said there are some concerns over if there's even enough space in the EDs for this plan and how soon a nurse could be hired.

Meanwhile, Halton's CAO, Pat Moyle, looked on the bright side.

"At least they (the Province) are saying nursing is a provincial responsibility," he said.

It's unknown right now if there will be any additional provincial funding beyond March 31 of next year for this purpose.

Committee members supported a staff recommendation to give the official go-ahead to receive the funding.

The item will go before regional council today (Wednesday).

Ex-MPP Snow dies

STEPHANIE HOUNSELL
Special to The IFP

James Snow was many things to many people over his lifetime, but most of all he was a builder.

As his son James explained, he was a builder of structures with his construction company, a builder of roads as former provincial transportation minister, and a builder of communities as a philanthropist.

On Saturday, James Snow died in his sleep at Milton District Hospital, surrounded by his family. He was 79.

It was the day of his 56th wedding anniversary with his wife, Barbara.

As one of his last contributions to Milton, Snow— together with Barbara— made a \$500,000 donation to Milton District Hospital's CT Scanner campaign. The annex housing the CT scanner has been named the James and Barbara Snow Family Trust Diagnostic Imaging Annex.

Snow was elected MPP for Halton East in 1967 (a riding that one encompassed Georgetown and Acton) and later for Oakville, and served as the Progressive Conservative MPP for 18 years, being re-elected four times.

"The highlight of my life was the 18 years I spent in government as an MPP," he said last year.

He was minister of government services for four years and minister of transportation and communications for 10 years in Bill Davis's government, retiring in 1985.

During his time in cabinet, he helped bring about the construction of Hwy. 403 and the initiation of Hwy. 407.

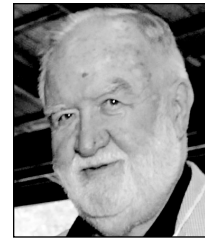
Milton will forever be reminded of one of its "architects," as Mayor Gord Krantz called Snow, each time they take a drive along James Snow Parkway, a road Snow pushed for.

Snow was born in what was then Esquesing Township (now part of Milton). At the age of 20, he started a construction company, Snow Construction Ltd. From 1969 to 1986, he owned and operated an aircraft parts manufacturing plant in Streetsville.


He also ran a farm operation. Later on in his life, Snow bought the Hornby Glen Golf Course, which he ran for seven years. He was a pilot and owned a plane for more than four decades.

The Snows lived on a farm— Pineland— in Hornby for 46 years. Two years ago, they moved to a home in Milton and donated the farm, worth \$2.5 million, to The Salvation Army.

A visitation will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. today (Wednesday) at McKersie-Kocher Funeral Home, 114 Main St., Milton. The funeral service will take place in the funeral home chapel tomorrow at 10 a.m.




JAMES SNOW



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CORRECTION NOTICE

The profile advertisement for Pro Cuts on Wednesday August 27/08 in the Independent & Free Press had an incorrect picture showing an employee that is no longer with the company. Katherine Bailey can be found at Shear Pleasure located in the Milton Mall.

Pro Cuts apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Congratulations



PAUL & AMY
on your engagement! (It's finally official)

Love Mom & Dad Dale, Mom & Dad Black & Families