

New doctor starts in September...

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Acton from her first visit last year because everyone was welcoming – the mayor, the doctors at the Acton Medical Centre – and she felt the great need for a doctor in Acton.

Dr. Jayalath learned of Acton at a physician recruitment fair, one of the events attended annually

by Halton's physician recruitment team, headed by co-ordinator Angela Sugden-Praysner.

The team has recruited 50 family practitioners for Halton in the past three years – 13 to Halton Hills – but this is the first doctor for Acton since Dr. Nather Alshakarji came to Acton, at first as a stopgap measure and then full-time three years ago. Doctors locating in under-served areas are eligible for special incentives including grants and tuition coverage.

Halton Healthcare Services, which took over Georgetown Hospital, is

also offering interest-free loans and relocation funds to the first three family doctors who locate in Acton.

Sugden-Praysner said when Dr. Jayalath joins Dr. Nather at the Acton Medical Centre, probably by the end of September, there will be four doctors in Acton, including Dr. McWilliam and Dr. Vanderbent and that leaves no more room at the Mill Street facility.

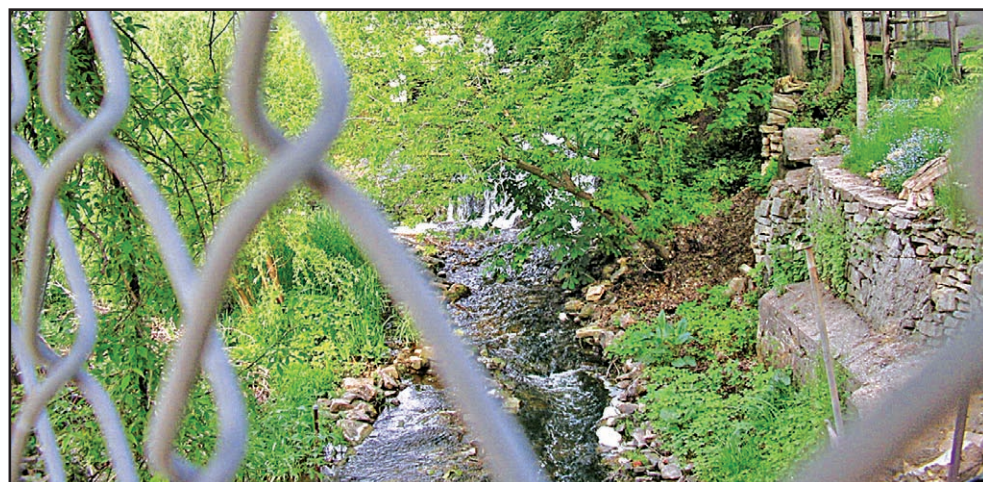
While many doctors who are completing their residency have made site visits to the Halton area, there's nothing in Acton to show them in the way of group medical space.

"Not every physician is interested in working in a solo capacity, so that has been a stumbling block with people coming and having a closer look at Acton," Sugden-Praysner said, adding no one has shown any interest in the 2,000-square-foot office at the Leathertown Junction plaza.

In October 2005, the owner of that plaza agreed to keep the office unleased for two years to give physician recruitment officials time to try to find doctors to open medical offices in the space.



CHOSE ACTON: Dr. Dhanya Jayalath, right, with husband Jude checked out Acton in October of 2005 before deciding to set up practice here. - Frances Niblock photo



LEAFY BOWER: Only pedestrians can enjoy the scene as Fairy Lake waters tumble over the mill dam on Mill St. W. and follow the Black Creek on its way to the Credit River and then to Lake Ontario.

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Acton Special Athlete...

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kept it very light at the competition and that helped," Boycott said, adding Emily had never been named all-around athlete, so it was nice that her hard work paid off.

While the competition

among the 1,300 special athletes at the Brandon games was tough, there was also a lot of fun, Boycott said, with special activities and dances.

"They also encourage all of the athletes to go to the other events and cheer for the other teams from Ontario, and it was pretty special to see all these athletes coming – marching in for the opening ceremonies,"

Emily showed natural ability as a gymnast as a young teen – she was always interested in music and dance and when her mom learned of the elements of rhythmic gymnastics – ribbon, rope, hoop and ball – she knew Emily would like it.

At the Brandon games,

Emily started with the rope event – not usually her strongest event – but she nailed it to win the Gold.

"I always feel her ball and ribbon are a little safer and she feels her hoop is her best. Usually throughout the event Emily is not aware of how she is doing because she doesn't understand the math, how to read the standings," Boycott said, adding they specially don't talk about the standings to keep the athletes focused.

"With Special Olympics, everybody is cheering for everybody. Parents don't just cheer for the athletes they know – they cheer for everyone who works hard to do their best," Boycott said.

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