



NEW DOCTOR: Acton's newest family practitioner, Dr. Dhanya Jayalath is settling in nicely at the Acton Medical Centre, seeing new patients and learning about her new home. — Frances Niblock photo

New doctor welcomes patients

By Frances Niblock

With a philosophy of patient-based medicine and a desire to help a community in acute need for more family physicians, Acton's new family practitioner, Dr. Dhanya Jayalath appears to be a good fit.

The doctor, who began seeing patients several weeks ago at the Acton Medical Centre, is slowly settling in at her new practice as her family settles into its new home in Acton — including new schools for two of her three children. Her husband works at the airport.

Dr. Jayalath said she looked no further than Acton for a community to begin her practice after visiting the community as part of a physician recruitment tour last summer.

"I said to my husband all the way home that I have to serve this community — that they really need me and I can do a good job here," Dr. Jayalath recalled during an interview last Thursday.

"The mayor was very keen and the real estate lady (who drove her around) could not do enough to help us. The physician recruitment person had all of the information I needed and I got a real sense that Acton was where I was needed,"

Dr. Jayalath said, adding Acton is a "good fit" because although she is not a "city person" she did not want to go to a totally rural community.

Dr. Jayalath said her first patient in Acton was an "easy" one — a man who needed information about a lump on his skin — and she hopes to see a variety of patients and issues.

Asked about her style and personality, Dr. Jayalath said she is "not very quiet, but also not low key" with patients, but tailors her approach to the patient.

"Sometimes you have to be quiet and let them talk and sometimes you have to take the lead. I believe in patient-based medicine," Dr. Jayalath said, adding "it's not what I want — I will tell the patient what I think is best, and if they are unhappy with that, we will see what we can do."

Dr. Jayalath, who worked as a physician in Sri Lanka for 15 years, came to Canada in 2001 with her family, and was accepted as part of a Ministry of Health international medical graduate program. It obligates her to work in an under-served community for five years.

Halton Hills is an under-served community — using the Ministry's formula of one doctor for every 1,380 people, the town requires five additional family practitioners, three for Acton, to meet the target of 35 doctors.

Halton's physician recruitment team has lured 50 family practitioners to Halton in the past three years — 13 to Halton Hills — but this is the first doctor for Acton since Dr. Nather Alshakarji came to town, first as a fill in and then permanently, three years ago.

Doctors locating in un-

der-served areas are eligible for special incentives including grants and tuition coverage.

Dr. Jayalath has privileges at Georgetown hospital.

She is welcoming new patients and can be reached at 519-853-4449.

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Police/Fire Report

Crack arrests

A 31-year-old Longfield road man was charged with possession of a controlled substance after police found a crack pipe with residue following a routine traffic stop on September 19 at 1:20 p.m. in the Highway 7-22 Side Road area.

The man was a passenger in the car. He appears in Milton court on November 7.

Last Wednesday, police, acting on information that an unlicensed driver was behind the wheel, pulled over a driver on Brock Street.

A search of the car found two crack pipes with residue and half-a-gram of cocaine and crack cocaine.

A 20-year-old Church Street East woman was charged with possession of a controlled substance and appears in a Milton court on October 17.

Case continues

The court case of two Acton women charged with leaving their 97-year-old relative, Phyllis Arnott, in a sweltering vehicle on one of the hottest days of the summer while they shopped

will be back on a Milton Court of Justice docket on October 10.

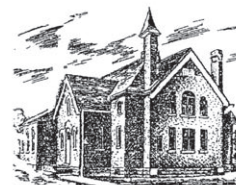
During a brief hearing on Monday, an agent for Bonnie and Kimberly Bouclair's lawyer asked the court that the mother and daughter's case be put over to the October date to be spoken to.

Arnott was taken to hospital and the Bouclairs agreed to have no contact with her as part of their release, but Arnott was apparently back at her Peel Street home, which she shares with her daughter

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In a world of change, come and worship the unchanging God.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

- October 1: WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
I Love You Lord (Psalm 63)
- October 8: THANKSGIVING
Lilies of the Field (Matthew 6:25-33)
- October 15: Stewards of Power (Esther 7:1-22)
- October 22: Context (Mark 10:2-16)
- October 29: REFORMATION SUNDAY
God Has No Grandchildren (John 8:31-36)

Please join our family on this joyous occasion when our parents **Margaret & John Creasey** celebrate 50 years together at an **Open House** in their honour on **October 1, 2006** from 1-4pm at **St. Alban's Parish Hall**

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