

EWAG News... Government introduces RDSPs for people with disabilities

Continued from page 13

Free Hearing Clinic - Tues. Jan. 13, 12 pm - 5 pm in EWCS Seniors Wellington room. Call Sherri Plourde at 519-833-0087 to book an appointment.

Rockwood Euchre - Thurs. 12:30pm - 3:30pm at the Rockwood Library meeting room. Please contact Sherri Plourde for more information at 519-833-0087.

"Snerd's" offer free computer help to seniors in the Erin/ Hillsburgh area. Please contact Sherri Plourde at 519-833-0087 for more information or to

utilize this service.

Volunteers Needed to assist with "Bottles Feed Families" Donation Program - just a few hours a week or month would be a great help to our growing program. Please call Kelly at 519-833-9696 ext 222.

Children's Programs:

Free Children's Programs - a satellite of the Ontario Early Years program, we offer lots of programs for newborns to pre-schoolers and their parents. Please call Marlene MacNevin at 519-833-9696 ext 223.

I have some important news for families caring for dependents with severe disabilities.

Our government has just introduced the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) for persons with a severe disability. RDSPs have been created to help parents and others set aside funds to financially support a child with a severe disability.

The RDSP is a tax-assisted savings plan. Contributions to an RDSP will not be deductible, nor will they be included in income when withdrawn. Investment income, grants and bonds are included in the income of the beneficiary when withdrawn from an RDSP.

To maximize the effectiveness of RDSPs and ensure that payments from the plan supplement rather than reduce income and benefits from other sources, amounts paid out of RDSPs will not affect federal income-tested bene-



Michael Chong

fits and credits such as the Canada Child Tax Benefit, the Goods and Services Tax Credit and Old Age Security.

We estimate that 280,000 Canadians are eligible to open an RDSP. Individuals who qualify for the disability tax credit, their families and others may save for the long-term financial security of a person with a severe disability by contributing to

an RDSP. These contributions will be matched with Canada Disability Savings Grants of up to \$3,500 per year from the Government of Canada.

In addition, the Government of Canada will also contribute a Canada Disability Savings Bond of \$1,000 each year into an RDSP for families with incomes under \$37,885. Each RDSP has a lifetime contribution limit of \$200,000 from the family and \$70,000 from the government.

Our government has extended the application period for the 2008 RDSP Grant and Bond through March 2, 2009 to provide people with disabilities and their families more time to access the 2008 matching Grant and income-tested Bond. Contributions made on or before March 2, 2009

will be considered for 2008 Grants. These Grants will not be included in 2009 Grant limits.

Bond applications made on or before March 2, 2009 will be considered for Bonds in 2008, 2009, and in future years. The Bond, once paid, will continue to be paid automatically in subsequent years if the Beneficiary remains eligible.

RDSPs are an important new tool to ensure greater financial stability for those that need it most. It is important that we, as Canadians, take care of our most vulnerable citizens. These new RDSPs move us toward closer to that goal.

For additional information on RDSPs, please call our office at (866) 878-5556.

Hon. Michael Chong,
M.P. Wellington-Halton Hills

50% OFF

All Women's Fall Clothing.

Sizes 4 - 18

Sale starts Monday, January 19th

By Appointment Only

519-853-0757 (Acton)

Our Dressing Room

sales@ourdressingroom.com • www.ourdressingroom.com

Grant, no interest loan for new physicians in Town

By Frances Niblock

Halton Hills will offer cash incentives to physicians who set up practices in Town - \$5,000 in a non-repayable grant and a \$10,000 no interest loan payable over five years - providing the doctors agree to practice in Halton Hills for five years.

Town Council is expected to approve the incentives at its January 19 meeting, and the grant program, made retroactive to January 2008, so Acton's newest physician, Dr. Alkadhimi, is eligible.

Doug Penrice, Halton Hills' economic development officer, said the cash incentives are in

response to on-going concerns in Acton that the community is underserved.

"These new doctors come in here and have a waiting practice of almost 3,000 each and we thought 'is there anything we can do to relieve some of the stress?' to cover their costs and make coming to Acton as attractive as possible," Penrice said on Tuesday.

He said almost every community in Ontario is looking for physicians and many offer incentives, including buildings to operate their practices. In Niagara Falls' the incentive program offers new doctors \$100,000 cash.

Georgetown Hospital has a separate incentive program that offers new physicians a \$10,000 relocation grant and an interest free loan of up to \$30,000. Funding is available for three physicians and to date, only one unnamed doctor has taken advantage of that program.

Halton Region doesn't offer any direct financial incentives, but it helps applicants opening or joining practices in underserved areas - like Halton Hills - apply for Ministry of Health grants of up to \$15,000 payable over three years and up to \$40,000 in tuition support.

Halton's physician recruitment officer, Angela Sugden-Praysner said there are no new physicians "on the horizon" for Acton, although the newest physician, Dr. Ahmed Alkadhimi, who took over the practice of Dr. Van Der Bent, is accepting new patients.

Since Halton began a physician recruitment program in 2003, approximately 70 new physicians have been encouraged to locate in the Region, most of them in Oakville, Burlington and Milton.

Acton continues to have the most acute need for family physicians. With the current population, and using the Ministry of Health ratio of one doctor to 1,380 patients, eight additional family doctors are required in Halton Hills.

THE NEW TANNER

Morning Coffee.

We're there.

At Lunch Break.

We're there.

Even Bedtime.

We're there.

The New Tanner is always there with local news, editorials, sports and events. There's also classifieds, Constable Felske's Corner and much, much more.

It's your one stop for everything Acton, Rockwood and surrounding area whether it be morning, noon or night.

THE NEW TANNER

373 Queen St. East.

519.853.0051

thenewtanner@on.aibn.com

INDIAN RIVER DIRECT

CITRUS TRUCKLOAD SALE

ACTON

WED. JAN. 21ST, 12:30PM - 2:30PM

THE HIDE HOUSE PARKING LOT (Eastern & Mill)

20 LB BOX OF FLORIDA Seedless Navel Oranges or Ruby Red Grapefruit

\$22.00

PER BOX