

Mayor's eBook benefits hospital

A schoolboy's essay, written more than four decades ago, about a charming, but thick, gentle giant who loves cherry pie, will help raise money for the Georgetown Hospital Foundation.

The author – Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette – is donating proceeds from the sale of his eBook (electronic book), *The Incredible Adventures of Goon Sharoon* to the Foundation, the hospital's fundraising arm.

Goon Sharoon, the main character in the book aimed at school-aged students, evolved from Bonnette's fertile imagination for a Grade six class assignment when he was approximately 13 years old. Bonnette's mother saved the assignment and gave it back to him many years later. He doesn't remember what kind of mark he initially got for the story.

"In 1997, I did a revision and added some chapters to it and I tried to get it published after 30 or 40 people read it to their kids who really liked it," Bonnette said recently, adding he took another look at it when his mother died last year, and decided again to try to have it published.

"My mom was a zany character with a zany sense of humour and she loved to travel. Travelling was in all our blood. My dad was with a travel company, and I owned a travel agency and this character is about someone who travels and creates all of the wonders of the world," Bonnette said, adding he doesn't know where the "silly little" name Goon Sharoon came from.

"He's a bit of a lonely giant who wants to make friends. He's a little daft, but he has a good heart and wants to help everybody," Bonnette said, adding that although Goon Sharoon gets rejected, he never gets angry, but just tells people to have a good day.

"The theme is to be good to other people – to be helpful to people and not take rejection personally," Bonnette said, adding it's prophetic that as a 13-year-old author, he wrote about Goon Sharoon meeting a mayor.



After teaming up with local illustrator Tamara Talbot and editor Nancy Kovacs, the eBook was published by ebookguides4life.com an eco-friendly ePublisher, co-owned by two Georgetown women. eBooks can be read on a computer or other electronic device, like a Blackberry, or eBook reader.

"I hope the kids have as much fun reading it as I had writing it and that they will learn about the world and learn about being a good person," Bonnette said. The book was unveiled last Tuesday at a launch in Georgetown featuring a selected reading by the mayor, a colouring contest and T-shirt give-away.

Bonnette's eBook, dedicated to the memory of his late mother, is available at www.goonsharoon.com



Mayor Rick Bonnette

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