



# COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## Tall order for Foundation

It looks as if the Milton District Hospital Foundation has a challenging new mandate to fulfill over the next several years.

A story elsewhere in today's paper indicates that provincial funding will likely pay for only about half the costs associated with expanding the hospital.

That work will be done sooner rather than later, as Milton's dramatic growth spurt, now imminent, takes hold in earnest when the new millennium begins.

There is no question that the hospital is held in high esteem among Miltonians. Witness the controversy surrounding the decision to close the obstetrics unit.

In time that, and other services, will be offered at Milton District. One need only look at the numbers of people anticipated for the community -- approximately 75,000 before 2020.

The Foundation has risen to daunting challenges before to meet the health care needs of Miltonians. Undoubtedly, with a lot of hard work, they will come through yet again.

But it will not happen by magic, and it is not somebody else's problem or somebody else's responsibility. We will all have to lend a hand in some manner to help fund our own future health care.

R.K.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### It's a small world, confirms reader

Dear Editor:

You don't know me and have probably never heard of the city where I live in California, but I thought you'd be interested to know how I know of you and of your newspaper, 'The Canadian Champion'.

From his sister, my father received for Christmas a 1999 calendar, mug and an electric mug warmer. Inside the mug was a packet of mocha fudge coffee, some brilliant yellow shredded packing paper, and stuffed tightly into the bottom of the mug were two eight-inch by 12-inch sections of your newspaper dated September 1, 1998.

I enjoyed reading snippets of articles from the tops of pages five, six, seven, and eight, and being a teacher, I especially enjoyed the political cartoon about Bill 160 on page six.

Neither my aunt nor my dad are Canadian. The mug and the warmer were made in China. Strange world, eh?

You can now proudly and truthfully advertise that your newspaper is read internationally.

I thought you'd like to know about the travels of The Canadian Champion.

Happy new year and good luck to you.

**Chriss Sanders**  
Redwood City, California

### Doctor's comments disappoint citizen

Dear Editor:

I was most disappointed with comments by Dr. Garnet Maley in a recent letter to your newspaper.

Dr. Maley suggested health care has not improved under the current provincial government. I was surprised that he felt able to speak for all his patients and colleagues, insisting they are unanimous in their desire to return health services to the state they were in prior to the June, 1995 election of Mike Harris.

It would mean the Dr. Maley advocates a retraction of 650 long-term-care beds for Halton and wants the government to renege on a promise for almost 1,000 more.

It would also mean that Dr. Maley would like the province to reduce its MRI machines from 35 back to 12, reduce breast cancer screenings by 80 per cent, reverse a 50 per cent increase in home care and community supports and cut total health care spending by \$1.5 billion.

In addition, given Dr. Maley's integrity, I'm sure it was an oversight when he failed to mention his desire to return to the days of a 10 per cent government clawback on his billings.

It's important to note that some of the doctor's points on health care, such as employee morale, are simply his opinions. Other points, such as the lack of obstetrics care in Milton, are long-standing problems that have nothing to do with provincial policy.

Still, other points are simply incorrect. Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital has a balanced budget and does not rely on Milton District Hospital's money to achieve it.

Personally, I have been a fan of Milton District Hospital for 33 years. I am sorry Dr. Maley feels as he does.

**Peter C. Berry**  
Milton

### 'Snow angels' appeared

Dear Editor:

We who live in Milton often read accounts in the newspaper of disgusting random acts of violence on the streets of Toronto. In fact the newspapers these days are filled with stories of violence, unkind acts and despair.

A difference phenomena has occurred in Milton. This past week alone our family has experienced on three separate occasions random acts of kindness by total strangers.

The first incident occurred the morning after the big storm. My wife and I were reaching the point of exhaustion, having only shovelled out half of our driveway, when a young man driving a back hoe showed up out of nowhere. He wasted no time in taking over the clearing of our driveway.

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### Pud

by Steve Nease

