



COMMENT

Be an organ donor

Canadian Blood Services has been running an advertising campaign using the slogan, "It's in you to give." The same sentiment could be used to promote National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week, which continues until Sunday.

Unfortunately, even though Canadians are extremely generous people, the rate of organ donations in this country is embarrassingly low.

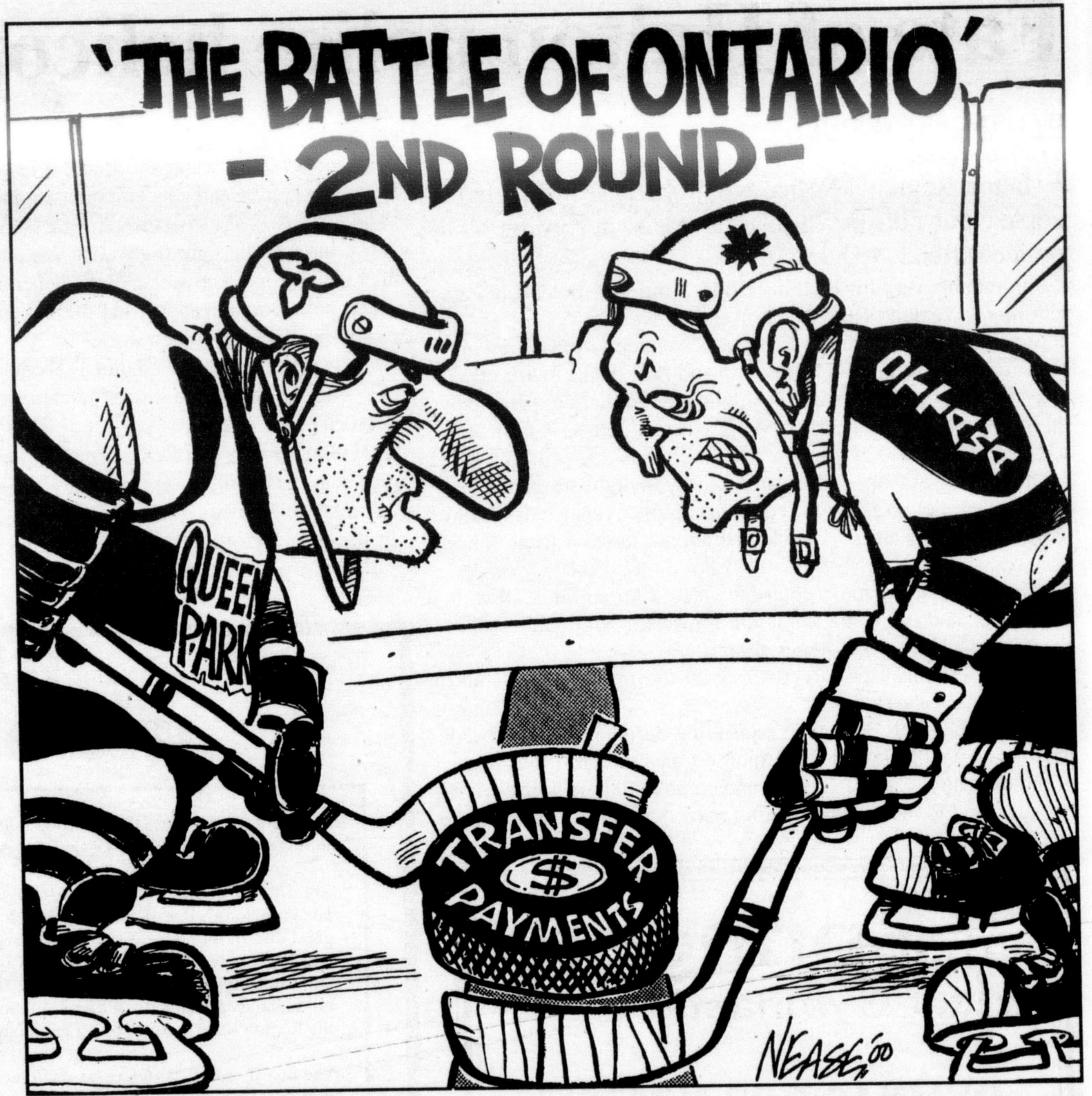
In 1998, the donation rate actually decreased 5 per cent from 1997, according to the latest figures available from the Canadian Institute for Health Information. And, judging by the lengthy waiting list for organ transplantation, it's clear Canadians aren't getting the message.

As of September 1999, there were 3,544 people waiting for an organ transplant. Of those in need, 78 per cent required a kidney transplant followed by 10 per cent needing a liver. Heart and lung patients accounted for 4 per cent each.

Please take some time to seriously consider becoming a donor. In addition to signing a consent card, it's imperative to discuss the issue with loved ones. Making such decisions in a time of crisis can be difficult.

For more information, speak to a professional or gather information from the Canadian Institute of Health or Canadian Organ Replacement Register.

Remember thousands of Canadians are currently waiting for a second chance.



OUR READERS WRITE

It seems things are not well at CH, says reader

Dear Editor:

It saddened me to read your lead story on the turn of events at the Conservation Halton Foundation.

Over the years I have known a number of dedicated people who have worked tirelessly for conservation in Halton, as members of the foundation board, as members of the authority board, as staff of Conservation Halton and just as friends of conservation in Halton.

You quoted Mr. Penman as saying, "Historically the group is event driven," but the foundation will no longer raise money by hosting events, but rather it will target corporations and private citizens for

donations. Those "events" (of which my wife and I have attended and supported several for years) are what the corporations and private citizens who supported them used to identify themselves with conservation in Halton.

I'm not denying the need for fundraising beyond that which the foundation was able to do through its event-driven approach in the community, but I believe it's wrong to sacrifice that approach.

Surely it is a multifaceted approach which is needed. To succeed with targeting corporations and private citizens, one must keep in touch with the community. The "events," in my view, did a remarkable job

of doing that.

I consider the approach being adopted as arrogant, autocratic and isolationist. I know that Cindy Lunau is not alone among her former members of the foundation board in her feelings of shock, hurt and confusion. Obviously, the conservation board is deeply divided, as evidenced by the 6-5 vote.

This "fresh-start" and "time to make changes" has included a somewhat peculiar management style of "termination and reapply," not only to the volunteer members of the foundation board but a couple of years ago this was applied to the senior staff of the authority, but not the CAO or the chair of the CH board.

For consistency, maybe it should now also apply to them and to the three CH representatives on the foundation board, who were excluded from the hand-delivered messages.

Does anyone feel like "shooting the messenger?"

Sadly, it seems to me, things are not well at Conservation Halton.

Gordon Galbraith
Campbellville

Williamson bids farewell

Dear Editor:

It's tough to imagine that I won't be coaching in Milton next year. For the past four years, Milton has been my second home. At this time, I would like to thank the following people.

To the fans of Milton: Your cheers and pats on the back will be a great memory that I will always have. The full rinks in all those playoff games were exciting. The pre-game jokes and smiles were encouraging. The assistant referees in the corner were a fixture in the Milton rink. No team in the league wanted to come to Milton and for that I thank you.

To all the players: We had a lot of fun. I enjoyed all of you and thinking of you guys brings a smile and chuckle. A special thanks to all the local players that are so

important to a community team -- Wheels, Phails, Blunds, Sturg, Nads, Jeff and Darren to name a few.

To the support staff: Your dedication and contribution made everything run so smoothly. You do so many little things that go unnoticed but are so important in making championship teams.

And lastly to Brad Grant: Thank you for taking a chance on a 32-year-old unproven coach. You gave me a four-year ride that neither of us could have imagined. To the next coach, you're lucky to have an owner that cares so much for the players and the success of the team.

You will all be missed but never forgotten. See you one Friday night in Milton.

Marty Williamson
Former Merchants coach



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by Steve Nease