

# Comment

## Physician tour just what doctor ordered

Considering Milton's dismal state not long ago when it was next to impossible to find a doctor accepting patients, the current situation is a breath of fresh air.

There are now 24 family physicians practicing in Milton with five accepting new patients.

But the town is still considered under-served, and the thousands of residents on their way to the area will only put more pressure on the need for doctors. That's why the work of the Town of Milton Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee is so vital.

As reported elsewhere in this newspaper, the committee has arranged for eight final year family medicine residents from McMaster University in Hamilton to tour the town this Thursday. The hope is that at least some of these graduating doctors will set up practices here.

The event is being labeled an alumni dinner, as current Milton physicians who graduated from McMaster will host the event.

Creative initiatives such as these can only help the town's doctor shortage and ensure medical care for current and future Miltonians.

The committee — made up of Milton residents in various fields — is doing our community a great service.

And we would like to say thank you.



## Our Readers Write

### Liberal candidate says thanks for support

Dear Editor:

Thank you to all the wonderful people who supported my quest to become the first federal Liberal candidate for the new riding of Wellington-Halton Hills.

A great cross-section of the community joined the team and shared in the sizable victory. Special thanks go to co-chair Don Heath, Pat McCarthy and Jim

Warrington, as well as the team captains.

The first period is over, and now we start the second period, with many exciting days ahead for the team — and all those many new players out there to join in. Thanks again to all.

**Bruce Hood, federal Liberal candidate  
Wellington-Halton Hills**

### Phone number left out of letter asking for help

Last Tuesday's letter from a woman named Joanne asking for help with regard to housing for her and her dog Herc failed to include a phone number

where she can be reached.

Anyone who can help Joanne is asked to call (905) 876-9419. The Champion regrets last week's omission.

### Family's proposed changes for educating gifted students are unfair to entire community: trustee

Dear Editor:

I want to thank The Champion for the articles and editorial comment regarding recent Halton District School Board events and issues.

It's obvious that I believe education is an important community issue.

I'd like to comment on last Tuesday's front page article entitled 'Trustees boycott meeting'.

The announced boycott — inappropriate as it is, in my opinion — revolves around the school board's policy of how identified gifted children are educated in high school.

Currently, each identified gifted student is provided with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), which stipulates exactly how the student will be provided with additional support in the high school they attend.

What this tribunal is about is stipulating the board provide segregated, self-contained classes for identi-

fied students.

It's the board's contention that this change in program doesn't fall under the scope of tribunals, as set in the Education Act.

This program change is the purview of the board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) as mandated by the Education Act.

I sit as a trustee representative on SEAC. That committee includes members from the key stake holder associations in Special Education including: Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders, Association for Bright Children (ABC), Autism Association of Ontario, Community Living Association, Easter Seals Society, Halton Council of Home and School Association, the Halton Down Syndrome Association, Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario and Voice — Halton chap-

ter for hearing impaired children.

The mandate of this committee is to advise the school board on its Special Education Plan.

Part of its work includes a Gifted Task Force that will report back to SEAC upon its recommendations for future programs for gifted students.

The current effort before the tribunal is an attempt, by one family, to circumvent the established process and impose their program wishes upon the entire gifted community.

Without hearing what all of the stakeholders have to say, it's my view that this is absolutely unfair to the gifted student community.

I will continue to stand in support of SEAC and its committees that are mandated to provide guidance to the Halton District School Board.

**Paul Tate, Milton trustee  
Halton District School Board**

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## Pud

by Steve Nease

