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Local doctors honoured at appreciation event

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Milton physicians have picked up the slack and played an important role in alleviating the local doctor shortage, which at one point reached desperate proportions — and they deserve to be thanked.

That was the message expressed at the recent breakfast appreciation event held at Milton District Hospital in honour of local doctors.

The event preceded Physician Appreciation Week, which will run from Monday to next Friday.

"This is an opportunity for us to pay back

a bit to the doctors in our community and to let you (the physicians) know the residents appreciate what you've done," said Sandy Martin, executive director of the Milton Chamber of Commerce and member of the Milton Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee, which hosted the event.

The appreciation breakfast was sponsored by Bronte Professional Building — a facility expected to be built this summer at Bronte Street and Laurier Avenue, which will house medical services — and Ramada Inn and Conference Centre and co-ordinated in part by Halton Region.

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SANDY MARTIN

Mayor Gord Krantz was also on hand to offer his thanks to the doctors.

At the event, committee member Peter Pomeroy of Mattamy Homes announced the homebuilder would be giving a face-lift to the doctor's lounge at Milton District Hospital.

After the presentation, Cindy McDonell, the hospital's chief operating officer, said Milton was recently re-designated as under-serviced by the Province — good news, because it means the community is entitled to a number of supports including a free tuition program for new doctors.

The current situation isn't as dire as it was, but neither is it a time to relax, Ms McDonell said.

"It's not as desperate as it was a few years ago, but it's difficult to keep up with the population increase," she said.

"The situation has improved, but we're overrun by the number of new Miltonians."

There are currently three physicians selectively accepting new patients, she said, and there are three more positions open.


Milton's physicians have been steadfast to their community through much, Ms McDonell said.

"They've been there in the hard times meeting needs in both their offices and in the hospital," she said.

The recruiting committee is continuing its work, giving potential Milton physicians tours through the community and hospital.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Ms Martin said as the committee continues its work recruiting new physicians, it's important not to forget about the physicians Milton already has.



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