

# Georgetown hospital to merge with Milton, Oakville

By LISA TALLYN

Special to The Champion

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) will soon be getting a new addition.

Minister of Health and Long-Term Care George Smitherman announced last Friday that operation of the Georgetown hospital site will be transferred from William Osler Health Centre (WOHC) to HHS — which has hospital sites in Milton and Oakville.

Mr. Smitherman said the transfer will improve the planning and co-ordination of health services for Halton residents because Georgetown is located in the same Mississauga-Halton Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) as the Milton and Oakville hospital sites of HHS.

The Etobicoke and Brampton sites of WOHC are located in the Central West LHIN.

"This is precisely the kind of better integration that LHINs were designed to provide," said Mr. Smitherman. "By transferring the

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**GEORGE SMITHERMAN**

operation of Georgetown hospital to Halton Healthcare Services, the LHIN will be better able to plan for the future needs of Halton Hills residents."

LHINs are non-profit organizations introduced recently by the provincial government. They're responsible for planning, integrating and funding local health services including hospitals.

"While the sign in front of Georgetown hospital will eventually change, the quality of services offered inside will not," said Mr. Smitherman. "As a result of these changes we feel certain that patients who depend on Halton Healthcare Services and William Osler Health Centre will continue to be very well served."

John Oliver, president and CEO of HHS, said Monday, it's not known yet when the official transfer will be made, and that a facilitation team is being appointed by the ministry.

"We would like to see this come to a conclusion in a three to four month timeline," said Mr. Oliver, who served as Georgetown hospital's CEO from 1991 through 1995.

He said the direction from the ministry is strictly a transfer of governance and management operation of the hospital to align with the Mississauga-Halton LHIN, and is not meant to redirect clinical referrals.

"There is no direction to downsize, reduce costs, or shift or change the programs at the hospital," he said at Monday's Halton Hills council meeting. "Just as there are plans afoot right now for some additions to the hospital, we would like to see that, plus more happening."

HHS has plans to double the capacity of Milton's hospital and build a new hospital in Oakville.

Mr. Oliver said HHS has worked successfully with Milton to bring in doctors for that community and would like to do the same in Halton Hills to ensure the hospital has the right-sized medical staff.

**Halton Affordable Housing News**

**LOOK for this flyer in today's Milton Champion**

(Selected Areas Only)

Today's paper includes the newsletter Halton Affordable Housing News, produced by the community-based organization Affordable Housing Halton. Due to printing errors, the names of the Mayors of Oakville and Halton Hills were misspelled. Affordable Housing Halton regrets this error and apologizes to Mayor Ann Mulvale and Mayor Rick Bonnette.

"The business that considers itself immune to the necessity for advertising sooner or later finds itself immune to business."  
*Derby Brown*

## Royal Bank's Royal Dough Girls enjoy spelling supremacy at Bee



Obeisance may mean to express submission or respect, but it also equaled victory for a certain local trio at the recent Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee at Halton Hills Banquet Hall.

That's the word the Royal Bank's Royal Dough Girls successfully spelled to clinch top honours at the second annual Literacy North Halton fundraiser — beating out TV Cogeco's Cable Guys for first place in a field of 22 teams. In the final spell-off, the Cable Guys nailed astigmatism before being tripped up by stochastic.

The Royal Bank trio were dual winners this time around, bringing in the most pledges to go along with its victory. A total of 22 teams raised \$15,000 — more than twice as much as last year — for Literacy North Halton's Read, Spell, Write program, which matches adults with tutors to help them achieve a higher level of literacy.

Competition in the best costume category was just as tight, with Coles Bookstore's Spell Binders getting the nod among judges, who for a second straight year presented River Oaks Dental Offices with the Best Team Spirit award.

**AIR LIQUIDE**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**BARBEQUE PRESENTING PRIZES**

**MILLER ROAD SHOW**

**JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2005**

**10am - 7pm**

**Location: 5315 North Service Road, Burlington (905) 335-4877**

**FEATURING: THE MILLER CHOPPER**

Come see the Miller Chopper designed and built by Orange County Choppers along with The Miller Road Show Truck which will be on-site displaying the latest in welding equipment. See live demos where hands-on training and top welding experts will be available.

**Come see the Miller Chopper!**

**Get Rid of Your Pesticides & BE NATURALLY GREEN!**

**Pesticide Exchange Day**

**Saturday June 11th, 2005**

**(8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

You are invited to turn in your old or unused pesticides in exchange for FREE gardening giveaways, info on growing a healthy lawn, and a chance to win a wagon full of lawn and garden supplies!

**WHERE:** at the Household Hazardous Waste Depot, at Halton's Waste Management Site, 5400 Reg. Rd. 25 Milton (approx. 7 kms N. of Dundas St. & 1.5 kms S. of Britannia Rd.)

**ACCEPTED PESTICIDES:** herbicides (lawn/garden products), insecticides (bug/grub control products), fungicides (disease control products), and any other pesticides (flea/tick sprays etc.) Maximum 20 Litres per visit.

This event is sponsored by the Halton Partners for Naturally Green as part of a public education and awareness-raising program developed to inform the public about the potential risks of pesticide use and alternatives that are available.

Partners for Naturally Green:  
905-825-6000  
1-866-4HALTON  
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