

# COMMUNITY



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**GIVING BACK:** Anne Zujko (left) of the Milton District Hospital Foundation and Lilly Lo Manto toast a recent \$3,300 donation to the foundation. The funds were raised during a July graduation party for Lo Manto hosted by her parents at the Italian Canadian Club. Lo Manto was very sick in the past and the family wanted to give something back.

## Graduation party aids hospital

A local family has raised more than \$3,000 for the Milton District Hospital Foundation, thanks to a charity barbecue held to celebrate a milestone graduation.

When Lilly Lo Manto graduated from the faculty of law at McGill University, her parents decided that rather than throwing a party where their daughter would no doubt receive many gifts, they would invite people to make monetary donations to the hospital.

It seems to have worked.

More than 200 people attended

the recent barbecue, which was held at the non-profit Milton Italian Canadian Club.

"I was incredibly happy that it was successful," Lo Manto said.

Her parents, Maria and Charlie Lo Manto, took care of all the food themselves, with the help of brother Enzo and friends.

Lilly explained her mother chose the hospital as the beneficiary for a couple of reasons. First, it's a cause everyone could appreciate. But it also means a lot to the family for personal reasons.

"I was very sick in the past, so the hospital was there to help me," Lilly said.

Anne Zujko of the Milton District Hospital Foundation said the donation was very much appreciated and will be put to good use.

"We are delighted that the Lo Manto family chose to celebrate this major accomplishment of their daughter, Lilly, to benefit Milton District Hospital," Zujko said.

The money raised will go toward essential medical equipment.

## NICHE program promotes elder-friendly environment

*HHS partners with international program*

How a hospital cares for its elderly population is telling about its culture of care.

With that in mind, Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) has enhanced its Safer Elder Care program by partnering with Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE), an international program renowned for helping hospitals improve the care of older adult patients.

Recently, HHS's three community hospitals, including Milton District Hospital, became the first non-teaching hospitals in Ontario to be awarded the NICHE designation for providing geriatric-sensitive care.

"More than 58 per cent of Halton Healthcare Services' patients are over the age of 65, and

as such face a variety of health risks specific to elders," said Delayne Haasz, a member of the Safe Elder Care Task Force.

"We wanted to focus on the unique and complex needs of our elderly population and how we could enhance their care in the safest possible way."

NICHE provides nurses with the tools they need to quickly detect and treat common geriatric problems such as delirium, dementia or depression, said Colleen Silver, HHS professional practice clinician.

"It allows us to create a more elder-friendly environment," she said.

To achieve the NICHE designation, HHS had to develop and submit a comprehensive Elder Care Action Plan and demonstrate continuous quality improvements to geriatric-sensitive care.

## Ride for hospital Aug. 16

Get ready to rev those engines! Motorcycle enthusiasts will once again join forces for the Merchants of Milton's second annual Charity Motorcycle Poker Run in support of the Milton District Hospital Foundation.

The event will be held Sunday, Aug. 16, rain or shine.

Participants will gather between 9 and 11 a.m. for coffee and registration at Halton Transmission, 88 Ontario St. N., before setting off on a scenic 200-km ride.

The ride will finish between 2 and 3 p.m. at the Halton

Sportsmen's Association, 5125 Steeles Ave. W., where participants will enjoy a steak dinner and live concert by Milton's own Low Down Dirty Band.

The cost is \$30 per rider and \$20 per passenger, which includes dinner and a t-shirt. Registration fees will be waived with \$100 collected in pledges.

Corporate sponsorships are still available.

To join the ride and for pledge sheets, call Ron Kulla at (905) 601-3000 or visit [www.charity-pokerrun.ca](http://www.charity-pokerrun.ca).

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- Hammer the Nail
- Three Legged Race
- Rubber Boot Kick
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Daily admission: Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, Children \$4, Family Package: \$20 (some events differ) Programs subject to change.

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