

# Dinner is served, say Bonnie, Ted and Gord

One of the prizes to be auctioned off tonight at the United Way dinner auction involves a posh evening and the chance to be waited on by high-profile elected officials.

The successful bidder will buy a dinner for four at the Harrop House restaurant, limousine service to that locale, complete with champagne in the car, and a dinner served by Mayor Gord Krantz, federal MP Bonnie Brown and Milton provincial representative Ted Chudleigh.

Prior to dinner, the limo will make a tour

of the Niagara Escarpment. As well, hair-dressing and barbering sessions for the guests will be thrown in. An a cappella group will serenade the diners.

The United Way dinner auction is at Halton Hills Place on Steeles Avenue. Tickets are \$35. They're available at Bergsma's, Paint and Wallpaper (217 Main St. E.) Canada Trust (252 Main St. E.), Soapberry Shop (in Milton Mall) and the United Way office (44 Main St. E.). The evening gets underway at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7:30 p.m.

# Paramedic training announced for local ambulance attendants

By KIM ARNOTT  
Special to The Champion

Beginning next spring, as many as 75 ambulance attendants working with the District of Halton and Mississauga Ambulance Service will undergo an intensive 18-week training course to provide them with advanced life support skills, the service announced Tuesday.

Funding for the upgraded training has come through the service's participation in the Ontario Prehospital Advanced Life Support Study (OPALS).

The Ottawa-based study, which has collected data on the Halton-area ambulance service since 1991, will evaluate the impact of having fully-trained paramedics aboard the emergency-response vehicles.

"Once these people have completed the necessary training, they will be able to start IVs (and) administer medication through IVs," explained Dr. Matthew Stempien, medical director with Burlington's Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital, which provides medical direction to the service.

At the moment, those services are only provided once a patient reaches a hospital.

The study will also provide "an opportunity to see what sort of paramedic we need," explained Dr. Stempien.

Currently, only the province's air ambulance service, along with ambulances in Toronto and Hamilton, are staffed with fully-trained paramedics.

The goal over the next several years will be to ensure at least one fully-trained paramedic rides with every local ambulance at all times, said Ron Liersch, manager of the local service.

The 18-week training course will include six weeks of in-class training, six weeks of

hospital training and six weeks of in-vehicle training.

The attendants will given training in IV and medication use, as well as trauma treatment.

The program will also involve purchasing new equipment for the service which will allow the paramedics to make full use of their new skills.

Money for the training and equipment purchases will be provided by the Ministry of Health.

"This is a hope and a dream we've had for a long time," said Mr. Liersch. "It's state of the art."

Gord Arnes, president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, Local 207, which represents the ambulance drivers, said staff are pleased the program will be introduced locally.

"We're happy it's here," he said. "It's long overdue."

The current level of training for ambulance attendants involves a one-year community college course, as well as a provincial examination.

The District of Halton and Mississauga Ambulance Service employs about 90 ambulance attendants and is responsible for coverage of all of Milton, Oakville and Burlington, as well as Streetsville and most of the city of Mississauga.

# Meeting for youth to get input

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

Milton high school students will be invited to have their say on local issues concerning youth Tuesday.

The Milton Mayor's Youth Advisory Council will present a forum to address the youths' beefs at the Milton Leisure Centre at noon.

About 160 teenagers from the town's three high schools are expected to attend the event, said Ryan Leworthy, 20, the council's chairperson.

The forum will include guest speakers and discussion on the concerns of youth, he said.

"There's not a lot (for youths) to do in Milton," Mr. Leworthy said.

"I think that's going to be the big issue that's going to come up at the forum."

The event is the municipal government-driven council's first initiative since the group was formed in May.

Run by a board of directors made up of nine youths, the council was created to provide a "positive voice for youths in Milton," he said.

Its objectives are to serve as an advocacy group for youths, fund youth projects and programs and address issues concerning youths.

Mr. Leworthy is hoping to recruit members for the council at the forum.

"I think we're going to get a really good response," he said.



Ryan Leworthy

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