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# The Canadian Champion

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## Protesting docs all over the map

By BRAD REAUME / The Champion

With one self-imposed deadline passed and no agreement between the provincial government and Ontario's doctors, physicians are stepping up the pressure. However, given the fractious nature of physician groups, there appears to be no coordinated strategy for job actions.

Negotiators were working toward a Dec. 6 deadline, which passed with no deal announced. Ontario doctors are unhappy with billing caps, clawbacks of billings for services already performed, and provincial government proposals to restrict where doctors can practice.

According to Milton's Dr. Garnet Maley, president of the Halton Medical Society, some groups representing doctors are calling for physicians to close their offices this Friday (Dec. 13). He added the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), from which several of these groups have splintered, will announce its preferred job action later this week with a target date of Dec. 20.

Dr. Maley said he in takes his direction from the general and family practice section of the OMA.



**Some doctors' offices will be closed Dec. 13 and others will be closed Dec. 20.**  
— GARNET MALEY

The Specialists Coalition of Ontario, representing doctors most affected by provincial government billing caps and other proposals, have called for physicians to close their doors Friday, according to Dr. Maley. He added the Coalition of Family Physicians of Ontario, which he called a splinter group of the OMA, also called for Friday office closures.

Dr. Maley was unable to provide any numbers as to local physicians who might be complying with these calls for job action.

According to Dr. Sharla Lichtman, co-chair of the Coalition of Family Physicians of Ontario, demands on the health care system have increased 12 per cent over the last four years due to population growth, aging and new technology. Health care funds have remained frozen at 1992 levels, she said. The coalition plans to announce further job actions in the near future.

## Firewood food swap

Greg Hill is staging his annual, novel food drive in the usual generous fashion.

The owner of Maple Hill Tree Services is offering those who bring a food donation to his business yard free firewood — as much as they want. Mr. Hill will give all the food he receives to the Milton branch of the Salvation Army.

The firewood for food swap will be held this Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. Maple Hill Tree Service is on the west side of Ninth Line one mile south of Derry Road.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Juggling act

Nine-year-old Alycya Nikolich has her arms full as she loads up to help sort donations to the local Salvation Army food bank. Many volunteers young and old came out to help organize the Nipissing Road food bank Saturday as donations are piling up in the Christmas drive.

## NEWSLINES

### Fund moves up

The Champion is more than a third of the way to reaching the \$16,000 goal of the 1996 Christmas Bureau Fund. Through the generosity of Miltonians, about \$5,600 has been raised to date, and more than \$15,000 was collected last year.

The Salvation Army fundraiser aims to ensure all local families have a nice Christmas dinner and toys for the kids.

To contribute, drop off donations by cash or cheque (payable to Christmas Bureau Fund) at The Champion office, 191 Main St. E., or mail cheques to: Christmas Bureau Fund, c/o The Champion, Box 248, Milton, L9T 4N9.

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