

New chapel open in hospital

Private place for prayer, reflection

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

A new chapel at Milton District Hospital provides patients, staff and visitors with a private place for prayer and reflection.

The chapel, which opened November 24 through a private donation to the hospital foundation, is available for use by patients, staff and visitors.

"We're just tickled with it being there," said Kathy Powell, secretary at St. George's Anglican Church. "It's a special place for us."

After receiving several appeals for such a facility through her volunteer work at the hospital, Ms Powell decided to put in a formal request for it with the hospital.

Ms Powell is the co-ordinator of the Comfort and Caring Through Christ Program, in which area clergy send congregation members undergoing pastoral care training to the hospital to visit patients.

"We had the space so we were happy to do it," said hospital administrator Brian Brady. "It will be valued by the patients, staff and visitors. It's something we've wanted for a long time."

Located in the hospital's former pediatric wing on the second floor, the quaint 200-square-foot chapel boasts an altar, two kneeling rails and a cross — all built by Maplehurst Correctional Centre inmates.

"It was a real good effort on all parts," Ms Powell said.

New carpet, furnishings and wall decor to spruce up the chapel are expected soon, she said.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Kathy Powell proudly stands in Milton District Hospital's new chapel. The St. George's Anglican Church secretary pursued the project, which was funded through the hospital foundation.

May hear before Christmas

Joyce Savoline waiting for action out of Queen's Park

By **BRAD REAUME**
The Champion

Halton regional officials say they will wait until legislation is tabled before commenting much on changes to municipal government in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Regional council has reacted swiftly in the past to reports on municipal reform. Such initiatives began with a text tabled last January by Anne Golden's panel. With the release of the latest report by the Who Does What panel, chaired by former Toronto mayor David Crombie, officials at Halton insist upon waiting for new law prior to commenting specifically.

Available information points to a provincial announcement before Christmas, with debate to take place during a rare winter session at Queen's Park, recently called by Premier Mike Harris.

A report in Thursday's Toronto Star suggests that cabinet has approved a Toronto mega-city and legislation might turn the 905-regions of Halton, Peel, Durham and York into individual cities which would have representation on a greater Toronto council.

All changes are to be in place for the November, 1997 municipal elections.

"I'll wait for the government's recommendations," said Halton Chair Joyce Savoline. "The Crombie report is very close to the Golden Report so I haven't really given it much thought."

Ms Savoline said she does not support a large GTA region nor a GTA council because it will not be as accountable to local taxpayers as the current system. She said a proposal for a non-taxing Toronto and suburban utility board is not realistic.

Burlington Councillor Bob Brechin agreed the Crombie proposals were much like the Golden Report



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— JOYCE SAVOLINE

and said he felt that Mr. Crombie was sympathetic to the super-city idea.

"I'm disappointed that the report is just a regurgitation of the Golden Report, which I thought we had wrestled to the ground," Mr. Brechin said. Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said the idea of a greater Toronto board to coordinate utilities and police services has merit, as long as it does not become another level of government.

Mr. Krantz said he would support a Milton amalgamation with Halton Hills if there were efficiencies to be realized.

"It should be looked at but there needs to be a reason for doing it," said Mr. Krantz. "In Niagara Region and Hamilton-Wentworth there are numerous lower-tier municipalities but in Halton there are only four. I'm not so sure there are sufficient efficiencies with only four municipalities."

However Mr. Krantz said he was all for looking at the boundaries between Halton Hills and Milton. He said there is no sense in a boundary which has Halton Hills territory "only half a mile from Milton Town Hall, while you can drive north for half an hour and still be in Milton."

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