

Opinion

Paramedic hiring could be lifesaver

As with many aspects of life in Halton, increasing population is having an impact on important services we may sometimes take for granted.

Paramedics are one of the vital services that can literally mean the difference between life and death when there's a medical emergency.

Despite the fact that Halton paramedics continue to experience delays offloading patients at hospitals because of bed shortages, more emergency calls were answered and more patients transported last year than the year before.

According to a paramedic response report recently presented to Halton regional council's health and social services committee, paramedics responded to 36,000 calls and transported 24,000 patients to area hospitals in 2012 — increases of seven per cent and five per cent respectively.

Even with the increase in calls and patient-load, paramedic response times in Halton remain within an acceptable range under the Ambulance Act, according to the report.

To help ensure paramedic response is keeping pace with the region's growing demand, a new station in east Milton is expected to open within two to three years and an Oakville station is now underway.

Also revealed at the health and social services committee meeting was that a so-called 50/50 shared funding model between the Province and Region for paramedic services is actually closer to 44/56, with Halton footing the larger portion of the bill.

We support the Region's refusal to "shortchange" Halton residents where vital emergency medical services are concerned.

Hiring new paramedics to staff two new ambulances 12 hours a day, seven days a week will maintain paramedic response time standards in Halton and will likely lead to more lives being saved.



Heritage Matters

Thomas and Isabel Aikens built this classic Georgian-style farmhouse at 8350 Fourth Line in 1850, and it was their home until it was purchased by the Snow family in 1918. James Snow was born in the house. In 1938 the Cripps family bought the farmstead. Since then the property has changed hands several times and is currently owned by developers.

— Submitted by Heritage Milton and Milton Historical Society

Letters welcome

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters.

Letters must be signed with first and last name, and the address and the telephone number of the writer included for verification purposes.

Email your letters to kmiceli@miltoncanadianchampion.com or send by mail to 555 Industrial Dr., Milton, Ont., L9T 5E1, or leave them at our office.

Our office hours are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Letters

Achievements of students, teachers, staff celebrated

To Halton District School Board staff, trustees and parents:

Another school year has drawn to a close and nearly 60,000 students have left our buildings with additional skills and knowledge they didn't have just 10 months earlier.

Students progressed from recognizing words to reading books, from calculating area to understanding volume, from playing their first notes to a solo performance, and from not

knowing what they want to do to adopting a career pathway.

All Halton District School Board staff can truly celebrate the achievements of our students and the role they have played in the process.

We acknowledge credit is due to our teachers who work directly with our students, and the support staff who provide the operational structures for our classrooms. The senior administrative team and trustees should also be

proud of the learning environment that was supported by our decisions and actions.

On behalf of the senior admin team, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for their collective support and for their focus on student achievement and wellness. We look forward to a restful summer break in preparation for yet another productive year in 2013-14.

Director of Education David Euale
Halton District School Board

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