

# Opinion

## Planning, preparation for hospital expansion outstanding

A team of reporters and photographers from Milton, Oakville, Georgetown and Burlington have been hard at work the past month-and-a-half on Metroland Media Halton's latest feature about the redevelopment, expansion, renovation and rebuild of our community hospitals.

The four-part series — including photo galleries and a video — made its debut last Thursday and part two, a look at the new Oakville hospital, is published in today's *Champion*.

Here in Milton, you'd be hard pressed to drive anywhere without seeing a backhoe turning up dirt and construction crews laying bricks and mortar of new housing and infrastructure.

Milton District Hospital, at the corner of Bronte Street and Derry Road, will soon see its own facelift starting as early as next spring with 320,000 sq. ft. of new space being added.

The planning and preparation of the team Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) assembled to envision a health care facility unique to Canada's fastest growing municipality has been nothing short of outstanding.

In the story on the Milton District Hospital expansion that was published last week in the *Champion*, the community learned the future of the aging facility, which opened its doors in the 1950s.

Among the features of the state-of-the-art hospital will be a spacious maternal/newborn unit, an MRI machine completely paid for by the hospital, as well as medical/surgical inpatient units that more than double the capacity of the existing space.

The newborn ward, which will also be located on the main floor for patient convenience, will no doubt be welcome in our community, which is expected to grown to 228,000 by 2031.

The excitement of the hospital expansion remains high in Milton as we anticipate the opening of a facility that will be the heart of our community.

As one HHS staffer told the *Champion* candidly, "when the doors open in early 2018, we will wonder how we functioned without this."



### Heritage Matters

Located at 8565 Guelph Line, this Gothic Revival-style house was built by James Eastbrook in 1891. It was constructed of rough cut limestone with contrasting coloured mortar between the stones. The house was unusual as it included both Gothic-style arched windows and rounded Romanesque windows. G. Mitchell and family purchased the home in 1919. The Singleton family bought the house in 1971 and completed an addition in 1979 for their antique stained glass business, The Stonehouse of Campbellville.

— Submitted by Heritage Milton and Nasagiweya Historical Society

## Editor's Desk

### Tired of the cold? Before you know it, strawberries will be in season

People love to talk about the weather.

It's a safe, neutral topic of conversation to strike up with friends and neighbours and even strangers as a way of breaking the ice (no pun intended).

Well, this past winter there was a lot to talk (complain) about, especially with the ice storm. And we're still talking as we wait for spring weather to arrive.

The calendar says we're a week into spring, but it sure still feels like winter.

Halton communities have faced more than 10 cold alerts so far this year com-



**Karen Miceli**

Managing Editor

pared to just three cold alerts spanning six days in 2013.

Despite the relentless cold, there are signs that spring weather is on the horizon. The sun is becoming stronger, the days are becoming longer and the average temperature is on the rise.

While meteorologists say spring is slowly arriving, I predict we won't have much of a spring at all. We will wake up one morning and it will be summer. It will be like we skipped a season.

I have seen it before. Suddenly we'll be opening our pools and going for a dip in Kelso Lake. The strawberries will be in season.

Either way, at least this crazy winter/spring will be a thing of the past.

Then how will we break the ice?

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insidehalton.com

the Canadian **Champion**

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**905-878-2341**

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

[www.miltoncanadianchampion.com](http://www.miltoncanadianchampion.com)

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