

THE WELLINGTON ADVERTISER

The Wellington Advertiser was founded and registered in March, 1968 as a long-needed service to the retail and service establishments and the shopping public of suburban and rural Wellington County.

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Letters to the Editor are invited on subjects of interest to our readers. The Editor maintains final approval on whether letters are published and reserves the right to edit all letters. Preference is given to letters 300 words or fewer. Pen names are not allowed and all letters to be considered for publication must be signed and include contact information. For our complete policy on letters contact our office or visit: www.wellingtonadvertiser.com.

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EDITORIAL



Chris Daponte
EDITOR

Deafening silence

"It's hard not to feel like people have given up on us, and we take it personally." Those heartbreaking words came from Lisa Roszel, director of intensive care at Guelph General Hospital, who was describing the sentiments of her ICU staff.

Roszel's words may have been shocking for some readers, but for people in the healthcare field, or those close to them, they have become all too familiar.

Next week marks National Nursing Week, which will surely feature countless politicians and other talking heads offering myriad empty platitudes about the importance of the profession. No doubt the tributes will include the word "heroes", but as the husband of a nurse in the thick of the pandemic in Peel Region, I can tell you many nurses are, quite frankly, sick of this label.

After all, heroes shouldn't have to scrap and claw for a pay raise, settle for a 1 per cent increase and then watch as other civil servants are awarded more generous increases. They shouldn't be subjected to verbal and physical abuse from those they're trying to heal/save. They shouldn't have to fight

their superiors for the right to wear proper PPE. They shouldn't have to campaign for mental health supports and paid sick leave to combat burnout.

And they sure as hell should not have to watch morons on TV and social media put them further at risk by suggesting the pain, heartache and death they've been witnessing daily over the past 14 months isn't even real (imagine for a second how that must feel).

It's been a long, gruelling battle against COVID-19 and the situation is now worse than ever for nurses. Not helping is the noticeable lack of outside support the profession has received lately.

Remember how supportive we were during the pandemic's first wave? People and organizations proudly displayed lawn signs, took part in car rallies, banged on pots and pans at common shift change times, played musical tributes, and offered small gestures like gift cards to nurses and frontline healthcare workers.

And now, during the deadly third wave, when they're at the end of their rope, literally pushed to the

SAID AGAIN:
SEE ARTICLE ON PAGES 1 AND 19

"There is light at the end of the tunnel. We all just need to work hard to get there."

Sandra Hamilton, RN

brink of physical and mental collapse, and as the vocal anti-mask/vaccine/lockdown crowd continues its repugnant campaign of misinformation, what do they hear from most of us regular folks? Nothing.

And the silence is deafening. It's no wonder they feel defeated, often breaking down in tears, with next to nothing left to offer their own families when they get home (though more often than not, they somehow rise above it).

A recent survey by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario indicated 16 per cent of nurses will leave the profession within a year. Anecdotal feedback suggests the total could be higher, with the feelings shared by both longtime nurses and those new to the profession. It's an absolute travesty.

Just as this pandemic has proven the government and a large segment of society has abandoned those living in long-term care facilities, so too has it revealed that many of those same people have deserted perhaps our most noble profession.

Clearly major political and industry changes are long overdue, but what can the average person

do? Well, we can champion those changes and vote accordingly when the time comes and we can start by taking a moment to show nurses how much they're appreciated – and not just during Nursing Week.

It might not seem like much, but something as simple as a card or text or call can make all the difference in the world for them. They need us now more than ever.

Mental Health Week

Exactly one year ago, I shared in this space that after eight weeks of the pandemic, I was "spent" and that, for the first time in my life, I may not be "fine" at all.

To quote Yogi Berra, this third wave is like "déjà vu all over again." Like many of our readers, there are some good days, some bad days and more than I care to count that fall somewhere in the middle.

For the first time though, with vaccines coming, there appears to be some light at the end of the tunnel. As Roszel pointed out, "We just need to hold on a little longer."

Of course, if you are in immediate need of help, reach out to someone you know or to a mental health professional. People do care.

Letters to the Editor

'Caring angels'

Dear Editor:

Angels come in all sizes, shapes, and forms. Over the last few weeks, I

have come across a whole multitude of them. I was quite ill, in Groves hospital from March 25 to April 4. I had very slight symptoms in the morning, but by noon, I knew I had a serious problem.

Thank you to my wonderful neighbour, Joyce Culp, for getting me to the ER so quickly and for the ride home and the wonderful Easter supper she made for us. Also, for everything else she has done for me.

Next, the ER staff were very caring and compassionate to my situation. They do a great job. Thank you.

Next, was the trip upstairs to a room. I can't say enough about the nursing staff. They were absolutely amazing. Despite the situation with COVID-19, they were always smiling, laughing and doing everything to make their patients as comfortable as possible.

Also, by the way, Groves food doesn't live up to the terrible food stories. It was fantastic.

The many phone calls while in and since returning home has been great. They break up the day and cheer you up when you're having a bad day.

My church family, friends and neighbours are next. They have brought meals and visited. Thanks, guys.

Thanks to Donna Jamieson. She finished up and delivered my Easter packages to my Saturday volunteer buddies at Arthur 2nd Look. I miss you guys. Also for everything else she did.

I would also like to thank Pastor Ed Charlton for his phone calls, words of encouragement and prayers.

Next time you're in a hospital, be sure to give all frontline workers a high five.

If I missed anyone, I'm sorry, but I greatly appreciated everything.

Each and everyone mentioned above are all true "caring angels". I thank you all from the bottom of

my heart!

Janice Wilson,
Arthur

Okay with paid parking

Dear Editor:

RE: Paid parking panned, April 29.

I personally do not have a problem with paying \$3 to park at the new Trailside Medical Centre on Beatty Line. Someone has to pay for the landscaping company to cut the grass all summer and plow the snow all winter; they do not usually provide that service free of charge – and if you find one that does, please let me know.

My wife and I are also retired and we do not expect those services to be free, it is very rare that you can park at a hospital or medical centre and not have to pay. Over the years we have heard the term from a lot of seniors - "we are on a fixed income" - well, so are most people who have normal jobs; same amount of pay for a week's work. You do not have to be a senior to fall into that category.

If you think you have it bad here, go to the U.S. where you can't go to the doctor without getting out your wallet. If you think the price of food and gas are high now, get your head up, the worst is yet to come. Just be thankful you don't have a mortgage, car payment and two small children to feed.

I feel strongly that we are going to have to adjust our lifestyles to the current economic reality, whether we like it or not.

Dennis Ransome,
Mount Forest

Get vaccinated

Dear Editor:

Why do you need to be vaccinated?

As a child I remember that people had a note pinned on their door

to warn you that there was dangerous disease inside! This disease was called cow pox or chicken pox; it was at first only a rash, but was deadly.

When a vaccination was announced, people ran to get it. Every child going to school was also vaccinated.

Outside of Europe and America, the disease still killed people in the poor areas of the other continents. It was only in 1980 that the World Health Organization said that the disease was gone everywhere!

Now we can eradicate this new disease early if we all get our needle!

Remember the life you save may possibly be your very own.

So rush out and be vaccinated.

Sytske Drijber,
Rockwood

More coffee needed?

Dear Editor:

On behalf of myself and other homeowners residing on York Street East in Elora, we would like to question the recent decision to relocate street parking.

As of this past week, street parking has been moved from the south side to the north side of the street. If you are taking the time to read this, you're probably already asking "what's the big deal?"

The issue is simple logic seems to be missing from the decision making process. I'm told this decision was made for continuity between York East, West and the new development of houses connecting the two. Here is the rub: on York West all of the residential buildings are located on the north side of the street, with ample open space for street parking on the south side in front of the Polycorp building.

On York East, residential homes line both sides of the street, with the south side being predominantly semi-detached homes. These homes

WEEKLY POLL

The Wellington Advertiser offers weekly polls on topics of interest to our readers on our website at www.wellingtonadvertiser.com.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:
Do you support the decision to remove police resource officers from local schools?

YES
 NO

Last week's results:
Should the provincial government provide paid sick leave?

YES - 59%
 NO - 41%

*Vote by clicking on the 'weekly poll' tab on our home page at wellingtonadvertiser.com.