

Weather for Burlington, ON

Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
4° -7°	-1° -6°	2° -1°	8° 2°

Syrian family reunited with help from United Church refugee group

STORY ON PAGE 21



Little Caesars
HOT-N-READY™
\$5 MEDIUM PEPPERONI
Carry out only
4055 New Street in the Eastway Plaza
1500 Upper Middle Rd. at Brant St.

The Beat Goes On
USED CD OUTLET
Used CDs • DVDs • Games
BURL: 3350 Fairview St. (West of Walkers)
OAK: Oakville Town Centre (Dorval & QEW)

50 Years

1965 - 2015

metrolandmedia
Connected to your community™

Burlington Post

www.insidehalton.com

Stay Connected!

Friday, April 8, 2016 | 56 pages A Publication of Metroland Media Group Connected to your community - \$1.00 incl. tax

Province bumps older autistic children from therapy wait list

by Michael Gregory
Burlington Post Staff

The families of two Halton four year olds are devastated after learning their children are among 2,200 in Ontario no longer eligible for publicly-funded intensive autism therapy.

"I think it's disgusting and I think it's a disgrace," said Burlington single mother Crystal Campbell, whose son Casey was diagnosed with autism at age 18 months.

"It's one thing for the government to make this change but it should owe something to the children."

Ontario Autism Program changed

The province announced \$333 million in funding last week that will help revamp the Ontario Autism Program and set a wait list target of six months or less by 2021 for Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) and Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA).

As part of the changes, families of children on the more comprehensive IBI wait list — who are turning five between May 1, 2016 and March 31, 2018 — will be given one-time funding of \$8,000 and be dropped from that therapy's wait list.

"Why should my son, and everyone else's child, be discriminated against now because they've decided to change their standards?" Campbell asked.

According to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, clinical evidence has shown that children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) benefit the most from intensive services such as IBI at an earlier age.

"This means that children who are five and older, who are currently waiting for more intensive therapy, are not in the right development window for this service," said ministry spokesperson Peter Spadoni.



Crystal Campbell, a single mom trying to raise her autistic son Casey in Burlington, believes the Ontario government's recent decision to remove children five and older from a waiting list for IBI therapy is 'disgusting' and 'a disgrace.' She says a one-time lump sum payment of \$8,000 isn't enough. | photo by Nikki Wesley - Burlington Post (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)

In Halton Region, ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment and Development administers the wait lists for IBI and ABA.

To make matters worse, both Campbell and Oakville mother Athena Yu had recently received

letters from the organization saying their children would be eligible for IBI in the coming months after both families waited more than two years.

"I'm speechless. I cannot even think about what I'm going to do with my kids because our family sit-

uation is tougher than others," said Yu, who is also a single mother and currently pays a behavioural therapist \$40 an hour to work with her daughter Sofia, who will turn five in August.

"I feel like the government promised us so much. This is not fair. I'm going to fight for this for my child," she said.

“ I feel like a bad parent because I can't afford to put him (in IBI) the way I should be able to ”

Crystal Campbell
Casey's mother

Yu's parents helped her pay \$50,000 for her daughter to receive private ABA therapy instead of holding out on the wait list for public care.

Sofia, who had previously been non-verbal, benefitted immensely from consistent therapy and can now pick out which dress she'd like to wear to school at St. James in Oakville.

"It's a huge, huge difference — she can do every class, she can read. It is this amazing journey," Yu said. "This is the whole point I'm trying to tell the government is consistency."

Similarly, Campbell's son Casey has only come up for ABA therapy once, last summer, and had

see Older on p. 9

For days like today

Offers in effect Friday, April 8 through Sunday, April 10, 2016. While quantities last. No rainchecks.

3 DAYS ONLY!

DOLLAR RUSH!

COUPON IS AVAILABLE IN STORE

\$1 AFTER COUPON*

SAVE \$3 with SAVE ON ENERGY COUPONS

LED A19 60W-EQUIVALENT LIGHT BULB

4.00 - 3.00 Coupon = **1.00***

Dimmable. Soft White. Medium base. Lasts up to 22 years. 299-6009-6

*Official Mark of the Independent Electricity System Operator. Used under licence. Save on Energy is powered by the independent Electricity System Operator. Limit of 5 units per customer.

2 Great Locations 3200 Fairview St. 905-639-6711 Store Hours: OPEN 8 am till 10 pm 7 Days a Week 2070 Appleby Line 905-335-8733 Store Hours: Mon. to Fri. 8:30 - 9; Sat. 8 - 8; Sunday 8 - 6



Oakville's Athena Yu intends to fight the province in order to get IBI therapy for her autistic daughter Sofia, above, who turns five this summer. A new provincial program has decided that children ages 2-4 should be given priority on a provincial list for the one form of intensive therapy. | Photo Special to Burlington Post

Older autistic children taken off IBI wait list

continued from p. 1

been on the wait list since he was diagnosed.

"With the ABA I can now get him to put his shoes on all the time by himself, but in general his autism is getting worse and so are his behaviours," Campbell said.

Queen's Park representatives in Burlington and Oakville say they have received around a half dozen calls and emails about the new autism program.

Burlington MPP Eleanor McMahon said the government's investment will mean families will be eligible for ABA services that are "more intensive, available for a longer period of time and tailored to children's individual needs."

IBI therapy is generally up to two years, depending on the individual, and costs upwards of \$50,000 privately, according to Campbell.

see He's on p. 10



Mayor Rick Goldring

Community Event | burlington.ca/mayor

Saturday, Apr. 16, 2016



COMPASSION SOCIETY

Presents the 4th Annual
ELVIS & FRIENDS

@ The Polish Hall
Burlington
7pm - 10pm



Host Band: **Rudy & The Angels**

Elvis Tribute Artists: Al Eagle, Bobby Allen, Jeff Marsh, Ed Butski, Sam Caleri, David Kutter, Bruno Nesci & Joey Cundari

Judges: Burt Thombs, Rock 'N' Ray Michaels & Lesley Stewart

MC Adam Kulchyski

Includes Pizza and our famous dessert table

For Tickets Call 905.592.3722
Or Purchase online at CompassionSociety.ca
\$35/per person or \$250 per Table of 8

www.CompassionSociety.ca

484 Plains Rd E. Burlington, ON.

Charity Registration BN#: 80430 1810 RR0001

BurlingtonGreen CITY OF Burlington

community
**clean up
green up
day** and eco-fair celebration!

Saturday, April 23, 2016
School & Business Clean-Ups
April 18-22

plus The Green-Up event will be held on May 28 at Beachway Park
Thanks to the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund

We need your help!
Neighbourhoods, groups, schools
& businesses can register online at
burlingtongreen.org.
We will provide the supplies for
your clean-up event in Burlington!

Global Forest Sponsor
COGECO

Visit burlingtongreen.org for all the details and to register

Eco-Fair Celebration
NEW LOCATION
Come celebrate the earth at Central
Park/Library 11am-4pm for a BBQ,
refreshments, eco-displays, activities
for kids and a FREE raffle!

Tree Sponsors
BurlingtonPost **TURTLE JACK'S**
MUSKOKA GRILL



*Your neighbour for
over 25 years.*

924 Park Ave West Burlington
905-333-3323
www.parkavenuemanor.ca

**PARK AVENUE
MANOR**

'He's a very active kid that never stops': mom of autistic son

continued from p. 9

Casey attended, and benefited from, a March Break program at Canoe Therapy in Burlington, but the \$8,000 cheque from the province will only pay for a few hours a week over the short term.

"I feel like a bad parent because I can't afford to put him (in IBI) the way I should be

able to," said Campbell, who quit her job as a nurse at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital to care for her son.

"We were told we wouldn't need to worry about that when he was diagnosed, that we just had to wait until he came up on the wait list."

While also reducing wait times, the gov-

ernment plans to create space for 16,000 additional children to receive critical intervention and individualized intensive supports.

McMahon said because clinical evidence has shown intensive intervention is most effective for children between 2-4 years old, the \$8,000 in funding helps families right now.

"Instead of continuing to wait, these children will have immediate access to services," McMahon said.

"Families will work hand in hand with their local service providers to determine the best treatment path for this funding that is responsive to the child's personal needs."

Casey for his part has plenty of energy, and according to Campbell can sometimes act out: hitting, screaming or even darting out into the street.

The city has even placed signs near the family's house letting motorists know that a child with autism lives in the neighbourhood

and to drive with care.

"That's why this IBI was going to be so good for him, because they were going to work with him for 21 hours a week (on his behaviour)," Campbell said. "The benefits would be him listening, doing, what he's being asked to do, not being so violent...his social communication skills are (also) lacking."

Casey currently attends junior kindergarten at Frontenac elementary school in Burlington. Some of his favourite things include superheroes, art, the outdoors and jumping on a trampoline in his backyard.

He also has a black lab therapy dog, Neville, who will accompany him to school next year.

"He's a very active kid that never stops," Campbell said. "He has all of these needs and I don't even have words to say how I feel that he's going to be discriminated against and removed off that wait list."



COMPRESSION SOCKS... YOUR LEGS WILL THANK YOU!

KINETIC KONNECTION
The BRACING EXPERTS.com

Oakville 380 Dundas St. E. T: 905.257.4335
Burlington 3350 Fairview St. T: 905.637.4335

lowers energy bills *and* raises the bar

The Ultimate Comfort System.™
Complete perfection in comfort and efficiency.



RECEIVE UP TO A
\$1,700
REBATE*

with the purchase of a qualifying Lennox® home comfort system

AND

RECEIVE UP TO \$650
IN IESO REBATES.



Burlington, ON
1-905-332-5335

www.ABWair.ca
Serving all of Burlington & Hamilton's HVAC needs since 1987.
Over 25 Years of Award-Winning Service and Installations.



OFFER EXPIRES 6/10/2016.
*On a qualifying system purchase. Lennox system rebate offers range from \$250 to \$1,700. Some restrictions apply. One offer available per qualifying purchase. See your local Lennox Dealer or www.Lennox.com for details. Lennox dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.
© 2016 Lennox Industries, Inc.

Price matters

Cremation burial for 2
from only **\$48.60***

*Per month over 48 months. Everyone is approved.

Limited time offer. Call for details:
905-332-5545 burlingtonmemorial.ca

Burlington Memorial Gardens
by Arbor Memorial
3353 Guelph Line, R.R. #1, Burlington

Arbor Memorial Inc.

*A Tradition of
Quality and
Excellence*

**Classic
JEWELLERY**

Designers of Fine Diamond Jewellery

Expert Jewellers that deliver a superior service to satisfy the customer's every Watch and Jewellery needs.

399 Elizabeth St. Unit 4 Burlington,

905.637.2730

www.classicjewellery.ca

