

# Jones blasts funding formula for doctor recruitment

By DAN PELTON  
Staff Reporter

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones is concerned that proposed revisions to the province's Underserved Area Program (UAP) could mean communities in her riding will lose financial incentives to recruit doctors for the area.

The Liberal government is proposing a financial incentive program based on a Rurality Index for Ontario (RIO), which is specifically designed to attract physicians to northern and rural communities. Communities across Ontario have been listed as

subdivisions (CSDs). Any CSD with a score of 40 or more on the RIO scale would be eligible to receive incentive funding.

The amount of funding would be determined by the RIO score: the higher the score, the higher the value of the incentive funding.

Ontario's Underserved Area Program is also being redesigned to combine existing physician recruitment and retention funding from the Incentive Grant and Free Tuition Programs into a single fund.

Ms. Jones says this

means funding for Orangeville and Mono, who score 22 and 38 respectively, would cease. Shelburne (40) and East Garafraxa (40) barely qualify, while Amaranth (44), East Luther/Grand Valley (45), Mulmur (44) and Melancton (47) are only slightly better.

Caledon would be automatically excluded because they are part of the GTA, an area the government feels is sufficiently staffed with doctors.

"If the McGuinty Liberals have their way, most residents in Dufferin-Caledon will lose support for physician recruitment," said Ms. Jones in a press release. "I receive calls on a weekly basis from individuals and families who are looking for a family doctor."

It doesn't appear, however, that Orangeville and Mono have entirely been shut out. While Dufferin County has eight CSDs, it is also divided into just two under serviced designation areas.

Orangeville and Mono are joined by East Garafraxa and East Luther/Grand Valley in one, while Shelburne, Amaranth, Mulmur and Melancton comprise the other.

Since East Garafraxa and East Luther/Grand Valley are above the score

of 40, Orangeville and Mono could still conceivably benefit from the funding. There is also the indication that the other area, with all four of its communities in the funding range, stand to receive more funding.

This stands well with Shelburne Mayor Ed Crewson, who says his municipality has not welcomed a full-time doctor since 2003. On the other hand, he says six doctors have moved to Orangeville over the last six years.

"I'm glad Shelburne will be receiving enhanced incentive funding," Mr. Crewson said in an interview. "Any incentives we can offer doctors to come here will certainly help us."

"Health care is one of the building blocks of a community. If we don't have adequate health care here, we're a diminished community with a dark

future."

The new RIO formula, which was devised in 2008, determines each CSD's score by adding population (a measure of community population and population density), the measure of travel time to the nearest basic referral centre (which would include the various medical facilities in Dufferin) and measure of travel time to the nearest advanced referral centre (a fully-equipped and staffed centre such as Sunnybrook in Toronto).

Ms. Jones, meanwhile, maintains the Ontario government has not lived up to its promises in regards to health care.

"Six years ago Dalton McGuinty promised to recruit and train more doctors; six years ago the Premier promised that no person would go without

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Photo/DAN PELTON

SERVING A MAYORAL SANDWICH: Brenden Miller of the Grand Valley Griffins, left, and Jared Herbert of the Credit Village Bunny Barn Boys took the body to Mayor Rob Adams, who was on hand to perform the opening faceoff in the championship game of the Orangeville Ball Hockey League Sunday at ODSS. Grand Valley won the game 10-9.

## Orangeville voteless in rail decision

• From page A2

sales agreement "places the interests of Orangeville squarely in conflict with those of Dufferin."

She said "it would not be possible for Adams and Maycock, who are

arguably contractually bound (to assist, co-operate with, and support Highland in the purchase) to vote against (sale of the rail bed)."

On her award of costs, Justice Van Melle found the costs outline submitted by Mr. Makuch excessive,

and reduced the award to \$15,000 from between \$42,150 and \$50,089.70. "I find that an excessive amount of time has been spent on this matter," she said.

Mayor Adams said he was disappointed by the decision.

"Orangeville taxpayers have a lot at stake. Insuring the continued operation and viability of rail infrastructure is an extremely important economic matter."

"I will be reviewing the decision with our solicitor and with (Orangeville) council to determine our next course of action."

As for the possibility of appealing the judge's decision, Mr. Adams said

"I would not discount it. It will have to be one of our serious considerations."

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## COMMUNITY LIVING

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**Hi, I'm Dwain Russell**

I was born in Newfoundland. My Dad's name is Austin. I have a brother, Austin Jr. I have a sister, Sabrina. They live in Ontario now. My Dad takes me to see my brother and sometimes he visits me here. I am an uncle, four times with my brother and two times with my sister. I live in a group home - lucky me! I live with Mike, Jason and Peter. I like living with them. We go to Tim Horton's and we went to a yard sale. Paula (support worker) is helping me with the interview today. I like it that she is helping me. Paula helps me go to the bank and helps me shop. I like to go out with Paula and go places. I like going anywhere. If Paula is going out, I love to go out with her. I wave to all the truckers and the people I know. I know a lot of people in Orangeville. I have chores to do. One of my chores is doing my laundry. I also help with cooking and cleaning up one night a week. I take out the plates, knives and forks and put them in the dishwasher. One day a week I sweep and mop the floors. I do them because I live with other people and we have to help each other. I think that is fair even if I don't like doing chores. I like to visit the people in the offices at Community Living Dufferin. I like to visit the staff and the people at Options. John has started a garden in Options and I help him on Thursday mornings. John is my friend. I really like him. I went to Options yesterday when they were playing music and I liked it. I like country music. I like Kenny Rogers and Elvis Presley. I like all their songs. I also like Shania Twain. I want to learn line dancing. I did it in the past a long time ago. I did it in a bar. I think I will try it again when Options does it this summer. I like watching and participating. I like the music too. I like to watch T.V. I like to watch funny shows. I like to sit with Peter and talk. Peter and I have become good buddies. The people who help me and live with me are all right. I like to tease Paula. She is easy to tease.

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