



HEADWATERS HEALTH CARE CENTRE'S Diabetes Care Program members Kathryn MacDonald, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator; Dr. Gord Willans and Dr. Ron Murphy, Paediatrician wish Jane Blears (centre) a happy retirement. Absent from photo: Dr. Peter Clarke, Endocrinologist, Diabetes Care Program at Headwaters Health Care Centre.

### 'Children Remember' performances set for Nov. 11

Theatre Orangeville's Academy Musical Theatre will present special performances of Children Remember on Remembrance Day, Nov. 11. School performances will take place at 9:45 and 11:45 a.m. and a public performance will follow at 7 p.m. Children Remember is a special tribute to the courage and sacrifice made by all Canadians who

served and continue to serve our country in times of war, conflict and peace. The show highlights a respectful remembrance of yesterday and unwavering desire for peace in the future. These dramatic themes are powerfully presented through eloquent dialogue and impressive song. Directed by Anne Reid and choreographed by Jenee Gowing, the show

stars young people from across our entire community. Tickets are by donation and all proceeds will go to the Col. Fitzgerald, Branch 233 of the Royal Canadian Legion Public Speaking Contest. You can reserve tickets by calling the Theatre Orangeville Box office at 519-942-3423 or you can order online through [www.theatreorangeville.ca](http://www.theatreorangeville.ca)

## Community-based diabetes care advocate, Jane Blears retires

Jane Blears, who has spent two decades promoting the cause of community-based diabetes care, is retiring. "The time has gone by fast. Many of the children I worked with are now adults, it is going to be difficult to say goodbye to them," said the registered nurse who has spent 22 years at Orangeville hospitals, latterly as Certified Diabetes Educator at Headwaters Health Care Centre. Jane joined Dufferin Area Hospital in 1977 as a registered nurse and has devoted the last 20 years to

diabetes care and education for clients and their families. The Headwaters Diabetes Care team has designed and implemented diabetes care programs for people with diabetes as well as training courses for health care providers focusing on the skills, attitudes and on how care is provided in order to improve the lives of people living with diabetes. Jane and long-time colleague Kathryn MacDonald, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator pioneered the Diabetes Care

Program at Headwaters and are recognized across the province as advocates for community-based, multi-disciplinary diabetes care. "Jane is well known at Headwaters where she has worked with diabetes clients and their families in Dufferin and Caledon for the past 20 years. Her legacy of first class diabetes care will continue on in our community and at Headwaters Health Care Centre," said Dr. Gord Willans. "It was Jane's reputation as a diabetes educator which cemented my inter-

est in joining Headwaters' Diabetes Care Program," said Dr. Peter Clarke, endocrinologist for the Diabetes Care Program. "Today the hospital provides adult, pediatric and gestational diabetes care, and our diabetes educators work with adults with complex insulin regimens. We all will miss Jane tremendously," Dr. Clarke added. "Headwaters' Diabetes Care Program provides a quality and level of service not available to communities of a similar size," said Headwaters pediatrician Dr. Ron Murphy. "Her work in patient-centred diabetes care has built Headwaters' Diabetes Care Program into a model for other communities," said Liz Ruegg, Vice President of Patient Care and Chief Nursing Executive at Headwaters. "The work Jane and her colleagues have done to provide community diabetes care has ensured that individuals living with diabetes, those newly diagnosed and those at risk of developing diabetes have

access to the program whether or not they have a family physician." The Diabetes Care team acts as coaches and cheerleaders by listening, reflecting and having respect for people's experiences with diabetes. "Our role as diabetes care providers is to empower and provide hope," said Kathryn MacDonald, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator. "We support a person's choices in a non-judgmental manner that builds an ongoing, trusting relationship." "Jane's commitment to the diabetes program and passion to improve the quality of life for both adult and pediatric patients is commendable," said Ms. Ruegg. "The hospital thanks her and wishes her an enjoyable and well-earned retirement." For more information on the program please call 519-941-2702 ext. 2525 or visit the hospital website [www.headwatershealth.ca](http://www.headwatershealth.ca) and select patient care services on the home page.

## DCAFS facing \$1.1M deficit

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In a recent press release, she noted that reforms under the Liberals' Child Welfare Transformation have "had positive results." Since 2004, the number of children admitted into the care of children's aid societies has decreased by 18 per cent, while there have been five per cent fewer children in care over-all. Adoptions have increased by 29 per cent. "These positive outcomes are the result of intensive, customized approaches with families, with a focus on permanency for the child always at the forefront," said Ms. Keachie. "This approach to service simply takes more hours and staff commitment, but is clearly worth the results." "It's an excellent policy and no one is complaining. But we don't want (the government) moving away from it by making us move backward." Now, it is the task of the DCAFS, and other similar agencies in Ontario, to find ways to provide the same level of service with less funding. Ms. Keachie is considering several approaches, including buying, rather than leasing, the Riddell

Road facility DCAFS occupies; with the understanding that mortgage payments will be less than rent. As well, each children's aid agency in the province has its own adoption unit. The service, Ms. Keachie says, could possibly be more centralized to cut down costs. "We will continue to address our funding needs with the Ministry of Child and Youth Services," she said, "so that we can continue to serve our community effectively and with the level of commitment and expertise our families and children expect and deserve."

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