

Burlington Short 26 Physicians

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tion, incentives will now be available through the Ministry's UAP for new family physicians intending to establish a full-time practice in the community. This will certainly help our recruitment efforts."

The UAP incentives include the Free Tuition Program, which pays physicians who practise in an 'underserviced' community for a minimum of four years up to \$40,000 to apply toward their student loans. Benefits for the community include the Community Visit Program, which covers the cost of a physician to visit and tour Burlington, and participation in the Ministry's Annual Health Professionals Recruitment Tour.

"This change in status recognizes that Burlington's current supply of medical services does not meet the local health needs of our community," said Burlington Mayor Rob MacIsaac. "With this new designation, our efforts to recruit needed physicians to our community will be greatly enhanced."

According to the Ministry, the designation is meant to assist communities with long-standing and/or ongoing difficulties recruiting physicians, and where the supply of medical services is significantly below what would be considered necessary to meet local health needs. The UAP assists the community to reach a required level of service.

"I am delighted with this important next step," said Councillor Joan

Lougheed. "Our efforts during the past five years have been to support existing doctors and to attract new ones. Our city is growing rapidly and our need is urgent. The provincial designation is an important recognition of our growth needs."

Burlington's status as an 'underserviced' community will be included on the Ministry's next "List of Areas Designated as Underserviced", which will be distributed to physicians and facilities across Ontario.

"AS A RESULT OF THIS DESIGNATION, INCENTIVES WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE"

"All physicians who open a practice from this point forward will be counted toward our 26 vacancies, and could be eligible for the Free Tuition Program," said Angela Sugden Praysner, Physician Recruitment Coordinator, Halton Region, as she prepared to leave for the latest Health Professional Recruitment Tour to Ontario's five medical universities.

"Although we will primarily be representing Milton and Halton Hills on this tour as they are our two long-standing 'underserviced' communities, we will now also be able to promote Burlington to the medical students and residents."

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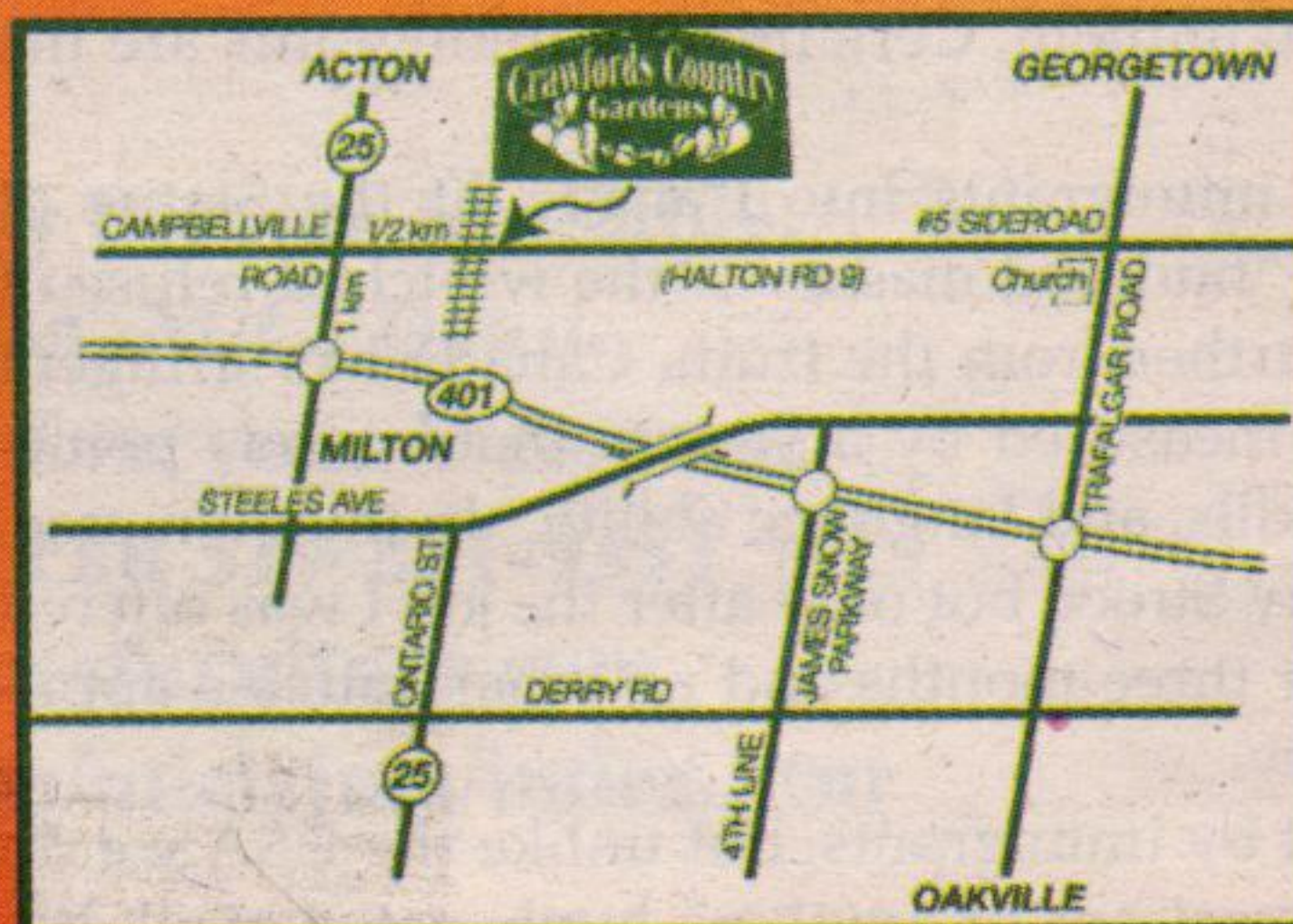
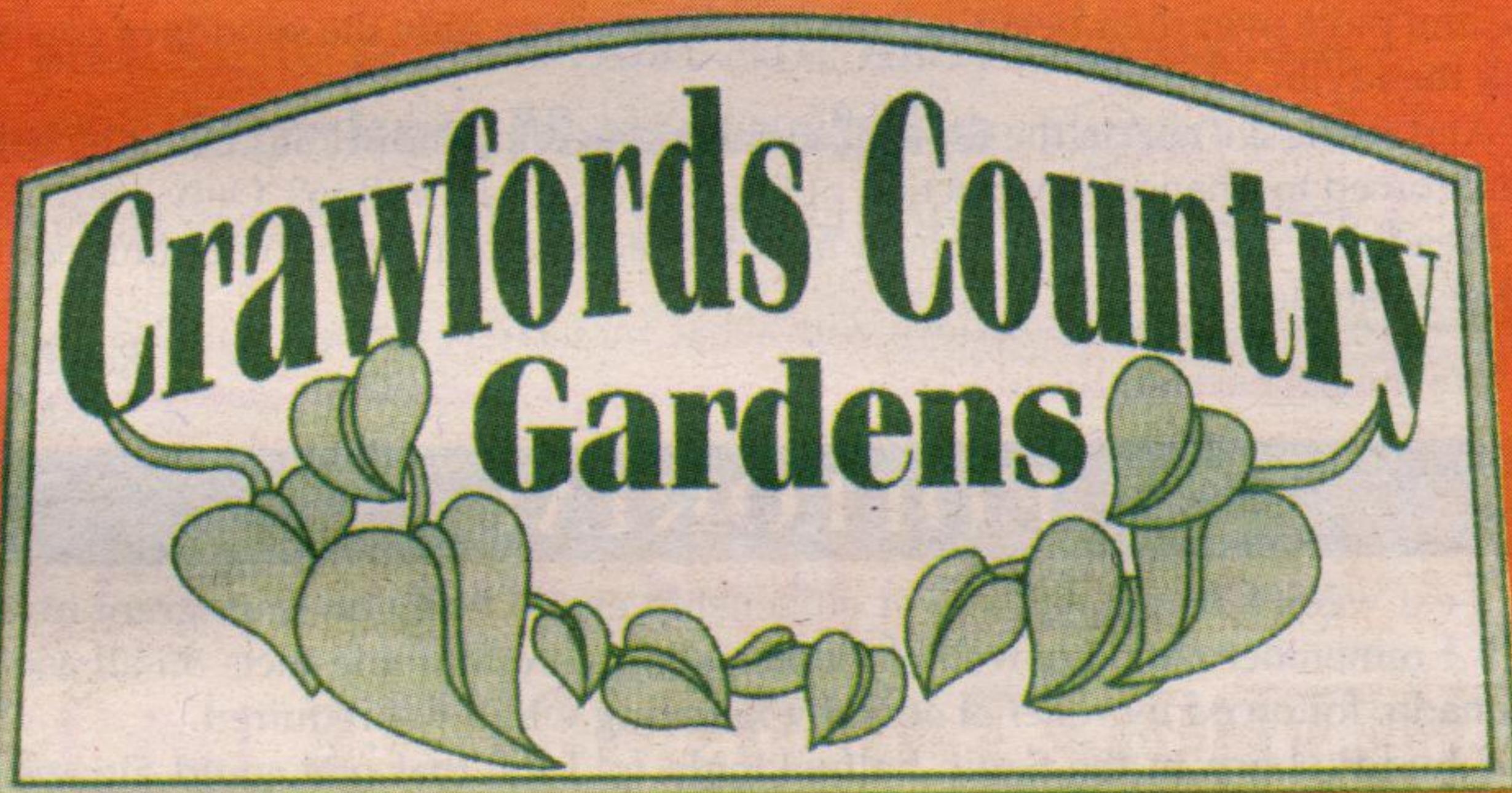
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