



UNFURLING THE BANNER: Principal of MacKenzie Smith Bennett School, Elsa Stolfi, assists a handful of students to unfurl the school banner before the Terry Fox Run last Friday afternoon. The entire student body, including the teachers, participated in the annual school organized run. All monies raised at the event went directly to the Terry Fox Run for Cancer research.

-Danielle McIsaac photo.

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Approve public defibrillators

A proposal to provide defibrillators in public buildings to help save heart attack victims – a move championed by members of the Acton Seniors' Centre – has been approved by Halton Council.

Politicians instructed staff to beef up existing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training and investigate, develop and/or facilitate a co-ordinated public defibrillation (PAD) program.

Although no statistics are available for Acton or Halton Hills, studies show Halton's 3.9 percent cardiac arrest survival rate is low, compared with 7.8 per cent and 8.5 per cent in Sarnia and Kingston, respectively.

As well, fewer Halton bystanders who witness a cardiac arrest step in to help compared with other Ontario rates. In a medical event where time is critical, getting a defibrillator to a victim within three minutes is a key part of a PAD program. Every minute that passes before the heart returns to a normal rhythm, the chance of survival drops by 10 per cent. Halton's report also said a total of almost 13 minutes elapses, on average, before a heart attack victim receives help after a 911 call.

When a visitor to a church dinner at the Acton Community Centre suffered a heart attack and died several years ago, the executive of the Centre's

board of directors asked Town staff to investigate putting defibrillators in public buildings.

That request was sent to the budget committee and deferred until the Regional report was complete.

Staff said the program would cost \$38,000 for the rest of the year, with one-time start-up costs of \$40,000 and annual operating costs of \$128,000.

Centre member, former Acton councillor Gerald Rennie said he was glad to see Halton was moving ahead with the defibrillator plan, but questioned why people had to be trained to use it when the Region's report quoting a U.S. study said untrained Grade 6 students were only "modestly slower" in using defibrillators than emergency medical staff were.

Greg Sage, Halton's manager of training and quality assurance with Emergency Medical Services, said the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario recommends "first responders" like security staff or arena managers, receive training.

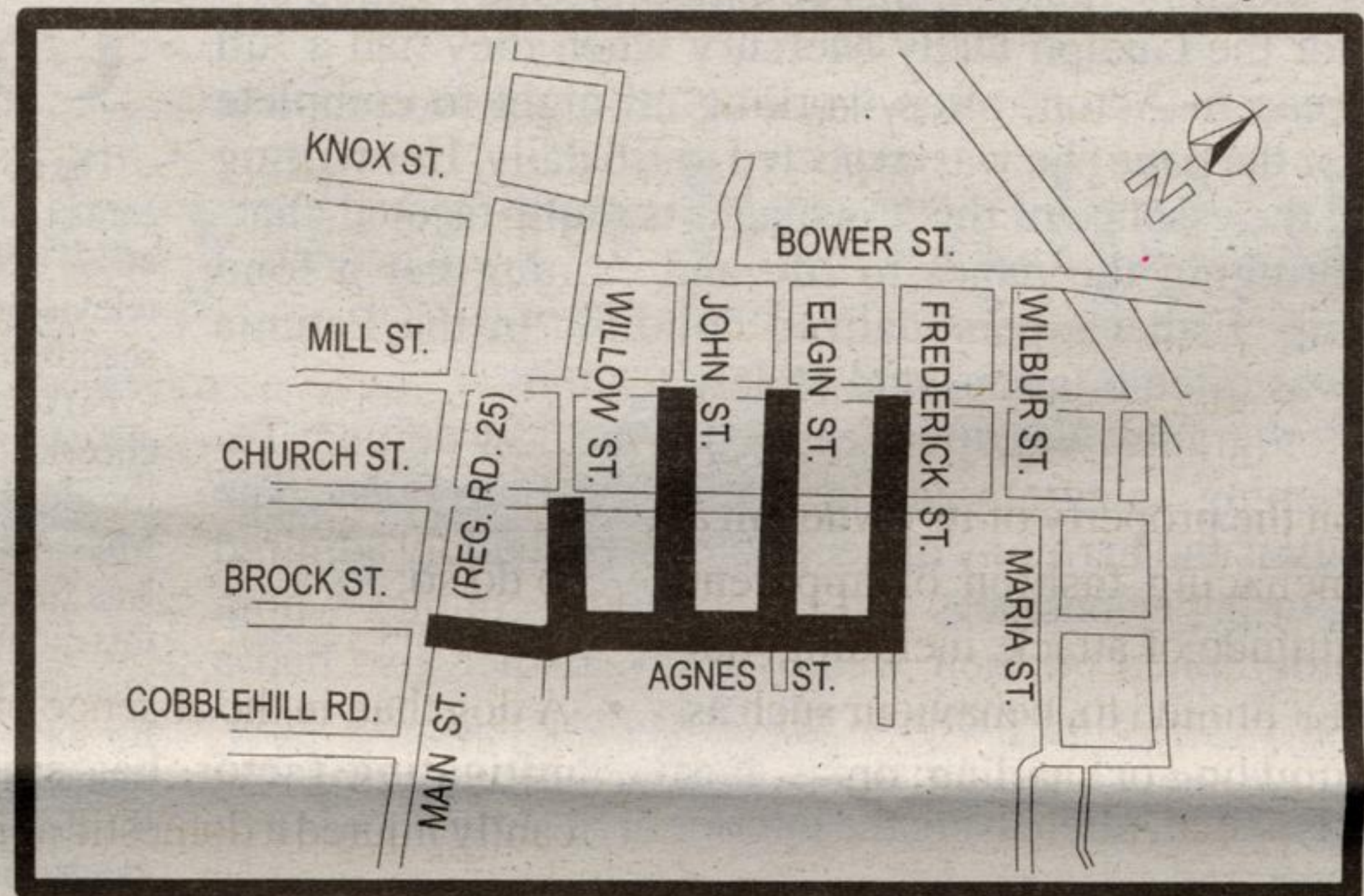
Defibrillators cost approximately \$5,000 and determining how many are needed in what locations is part of the investigation to be done by a steering committee that will be struck as part of Halton Council's approval of the CPR/PAD program.

Because a high percentage of cardiac arrests occur in the home, the study will also explore options to create a defibrillation program for in-home use of identified high-risk cardiac patients.

Halton Region

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Halton Region
2002
Official
Plan
Review

Notice to members of the public interested in serving on the Halton Region Official Plan Review Steering Committee

Halton Region Council invites applications from members of the public who are interested in serving on Halton Region's Official Plan Review Steering Committee. Four volunteers, one from each of Halton's area municipalities - Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville, are being sought to serve on the Committee in the capacity of Member-at-large.

The role of the Committee is to provide advice on consultation, to facilitate workshops and focus group meetings, to provide advice on Official Plan directions, and to comment on new policies. The Committee will meet every three weeks for the initial stages of its work, and will continue to meet until Regional Council has considered all proposed amendments to the Regional Official Plan in 2003.

Application forms are available:

- For pick up from the Clerk's Division, Halton Region, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville
- By calling 905-825-6000 ext. 7200 (toll free: 1-866-442-5866)
- On Halton Region's Official Plan web page: www.region.halton.on.ca/officialplan

All applications must be received by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 4th, 2002.

Applicants will be contacted on October 4th to schedule an interview on October 7th, 2002.

For more information, please contact Kathy Kielt, Liaison Technician at ext. 7200



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