

Strike delaying construction at Acton sites

A strike by members of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793, is delaying completion of a number of construction projects in Acton, including final work on Churchill Road south, and the closure of the existing entrance into Acton arena.

Until the strike, affecting asphalt and

concrete workers is settled and the existing arena entrance off Queen Street is closed, the traffic lights at the adjacent Tanners Drive can't be activated.

"The sticky wicket is that driveway

right now, and until that driveway is closed and the other one (Tanners Drive) made, it would be foolhardy to have those signals operating, because it would put eastbound turning traffic smack into the

middle of the westbound turning lane," Bob Butrym, the Town's traffic coordinator, said on Friday, adding that situation is already occurring.

Butrym said the approximate \$100,000 cost for the traffic signals is being paid for by the developer, Monmar Homes.

continued on page 2

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Thursday, June 10, 2004

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Rally at Queen's Park to save hospital's OB

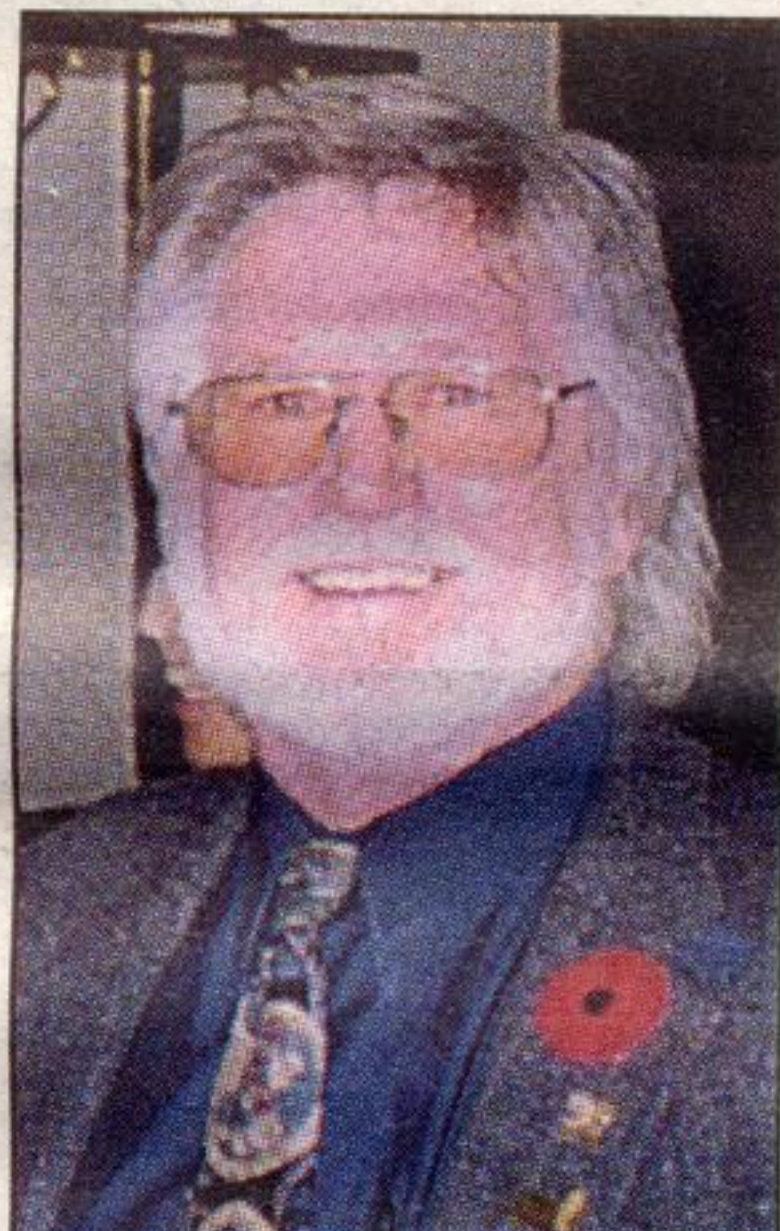
By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

The fight to try to save the obstetrics and pediatrics units at the Georgetown campus of William Osler Health Centre (WOHC) moves to the provincial stage on Tuesday (June 15) at a protest rally in front of the Legislature building at Queen's Park.

Acton Councillor Jon Hurst said the logical escalation of the fight, following a rally at Georgetown High School last night, (Wednesday) is to go to the province because it will take provincial money to prevent the closures.

"Let's face it. That's what it's going to take, because the units are being closed as a cost-cutting measure and they'll have to get money from somewhere and we have to show Queen's Park that this is a serious issue," Hurst said on Monday, adding if they do nothing, then the decision to close the units has been made.

Faced with orders to reduce its \$27-million



Councillor Hurst

deficit, WOHC announced it would close the obstetric and pediatrics units on July 5, resulting in local patients being sent to Brampton. In 1998 when Georgetown, Brampton and Etobicoke hospitals were amalgamated into the WOHC, Georgetown was the only one operating without a deficit.

In a press release announcing the rally plan, Mayor Rick Bonnette said the closure decision would have a huge impact on the whole community of Halton Hills, both immediately and for years to come.

"We are mad as hell and we're not going to take it.

Anything less than the return of the obstetrics and pediatrics units in unacceptable," Bonnette said.

The Town has booked five buses to transport citizens to Queen's Park for the rally on Tuesday.

The rally will feature speeches from Mayor Bonnette, Ward 3/4 Councillor Jane Fogal, local doctors, the president of the Chamber of Commerce and local business leaders.

The invitation list includes Premier McGinty, George Smitherman, the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, NDP leader Howard Hampton, Conservative Health critic Elizabeth Whitmore and Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh.

A bus, or buses if necessary, will leave the parking lot at Acton arena at 9 a.m., arriving at Queen's Park for the 11:30 a.m. rally, and leaving Toronto at 1:30. Buses will also leave from the parking lot of Mold-Masters arena in Georgetown.

To register for free space on the buses call the Town at 905-873-2601, ext. 2345.



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See Page 17

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