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2004-2005 campaign under way

United Way sets \$300,000 goal

If each area resident upped their donation to the United Way of Halton Hills campaign this year by \$2, Lor about the cost of a café latte, it would mean the organization could finally exceed its goal and do even more for the community, says United Way president Brian Clark.

Clark said for each of the past two years the United Way has fallen approximately \$50,000 short of its \$300,000 goal, causing it to cut back on what it provides to the 16 agencies it currently funds and turn away others seeking funding.

He's hoping that the \$300,000 goal set again for the 2004-2005 campaign, which kicked off Friday at the President's Ball held at North Halton Golf and Country Club, will be achieved. The campaign chairman this year is Norm Paget and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette is honorary chair.

"I'm optimistic, especially if we can get some help with campaign," said Clark. Volunteers are needed to help canvass the business sector in town, he said.

In an effort to increase corporate support the United Way is hosting a Lunch and Learn on Thursday, October 7 from 12 to 1 p.m. Area business people are encouraged to attend. For more information call 905-877-3066.

Clark stressed that area residents need "to give where you live."

"Being a bedroom community people have to make sure when they're designating their United Way contribution (at their workplace) they designate to the United Way of Halton Hills," said Clark.

He said many people believe there is just one huge United Way organization, but that is not the case and they are all independently run.

"One hundred per cent of the money given to us is spent in the community," said Clark.

Making a donation to the campaign, which runs through mid-December, is simple. Area residents should look inside their Independent today (Wednesday) for the United Way direct mail brochure.

The brochure includes a donation form and envelope all in one. All residents have to do is make their donation, fold back the pledge form, tape it shut and mail it in. It also includes a payroll deduction card that residents can give to their employers to ensure their United Way donation comes back to Halton Hills.

Some agencies supported by the United Way include Big Brothers of Halton, Community Living North Halton, Halton Hills Community Support and Information, and Literacy North Halton. To volunteer with the campaign, or as a board member, or for more information on the United Way call the office at 905-877-3066.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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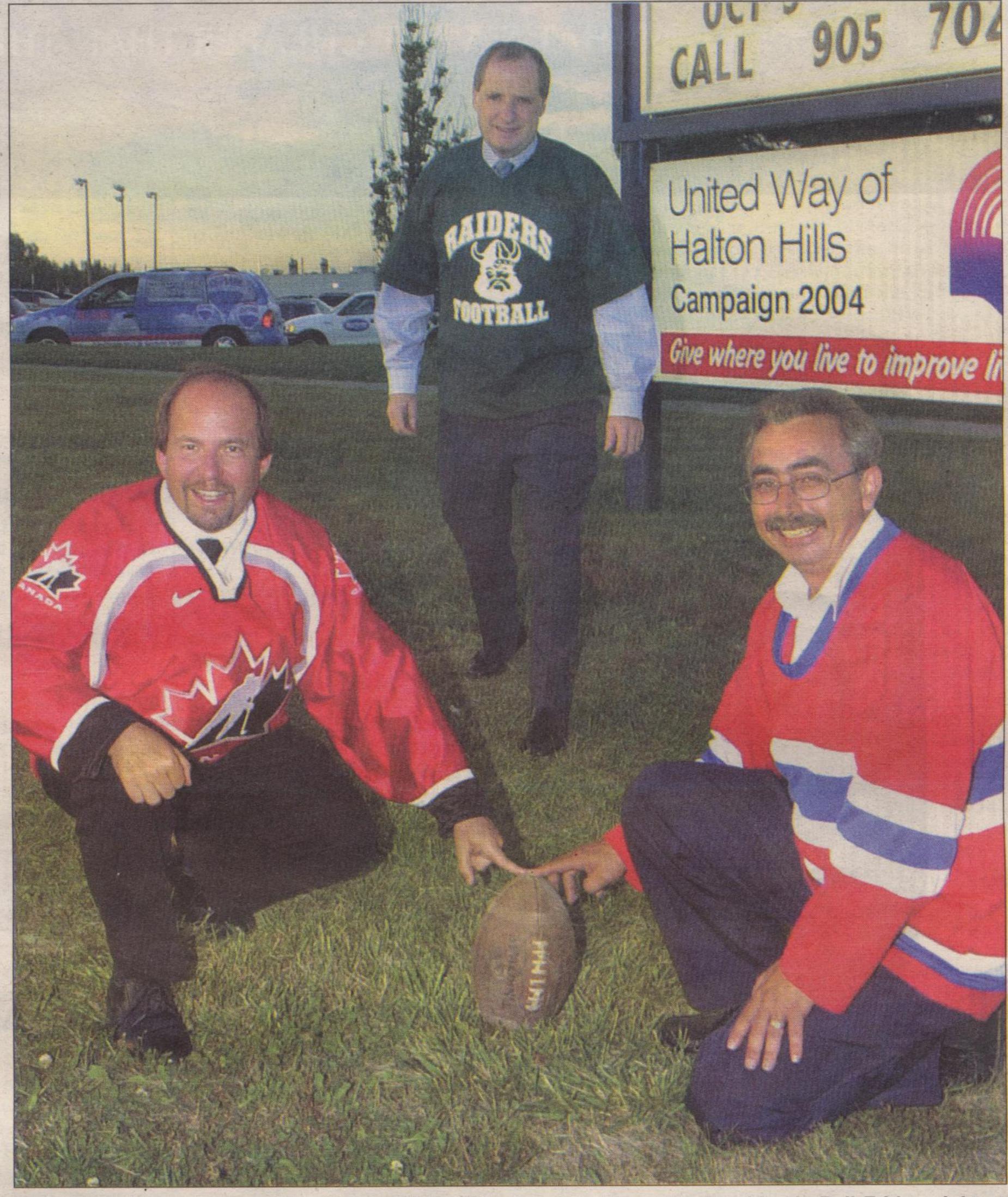
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The United Way of Halton Hills kicked off its 2004-05 campaign at the President's Ball Friday night at North Halton Golf Course by announcing its goal of \$300,000. Kicking off his own campaign in front of the United Way sign in Georgetown, United Way president Brian Clark placed the ball in the hands of campaign chairman Norm Paget (right) and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, who is the honourary Photo by Ted Brown chair.



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