

# Construction underway for new French Catholic school

Construction of the new École élémentaire catholique de Milton, scheduled to open in September 2019, is underway.

A groundbreaking ceremony on the 1150 Ferguson Rd. site was held May 9.

Halton's school trustee, Mr. Dominique Janssens, emphasized how urgent it is to meet the needs of young families settling in Milton, noting "We are proud to make French Catholic education accessible to a larger number of families and therefore contribute to the expansion of the francophone community in the area."

The new school will have a capacity of 308 students and 39 child-care spaces.

It will be the second school of the Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir to open in Milton.

École élémentaire catholique Saint-Nicolas, founded 10 years ago in temporary premises, has about 450 students.

"Here, as in the rest of the province, more and more eligible parents are exercising their rights to French-language Catholic education," said Melinda Chartrand, chair of Csc MonAvenir.

"They want to take advantage of their right to offer their children the educational experience that gives them the best prospects for their future. This is a promise that the Catholic school has been proud to hold for 20 years now."

Added director of education André Blais: "Soon, students will get off their school bus to learn and live in a bright,

state-of-the-art French environment.

"They will find educators inspired by the Gospel, who will invite them to become proud and committed young French Catholics making a positive difference for everyone around them," said Blais.

The blessing ceremony, led by Father Jonas Ahouansou of Georgetown's francophone parish, Paroisse du Sacré-Coeur, included participation of École élémentaire catholique Saint-Nicolas' members of the choir and Club des enfants de Dieu students.

Under a radiant blue sky, students and the Milton community concluded by singing Franco-Ontarians' anthem, Mon beau drapeau, soon to be heard often on these premises.

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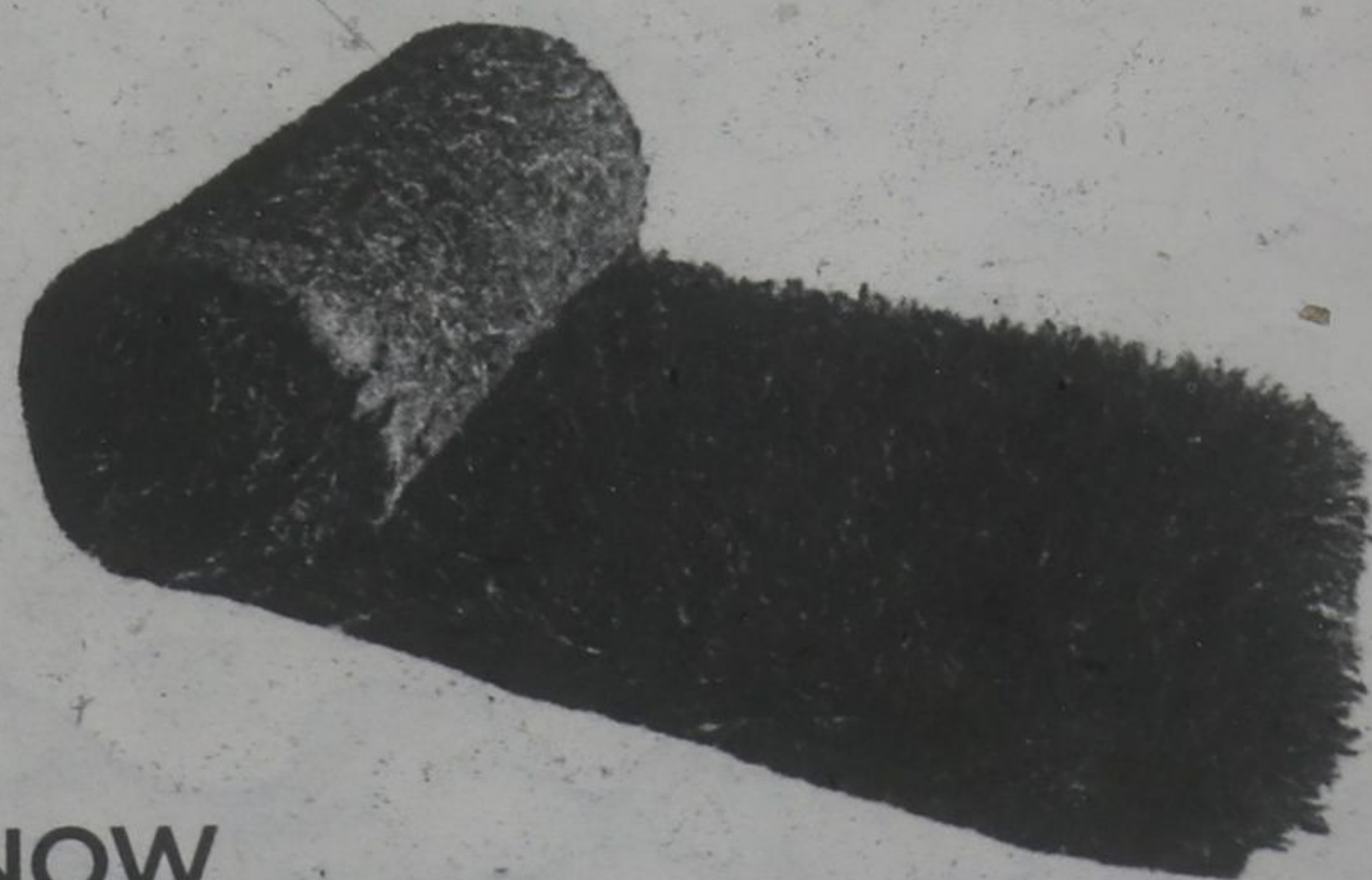
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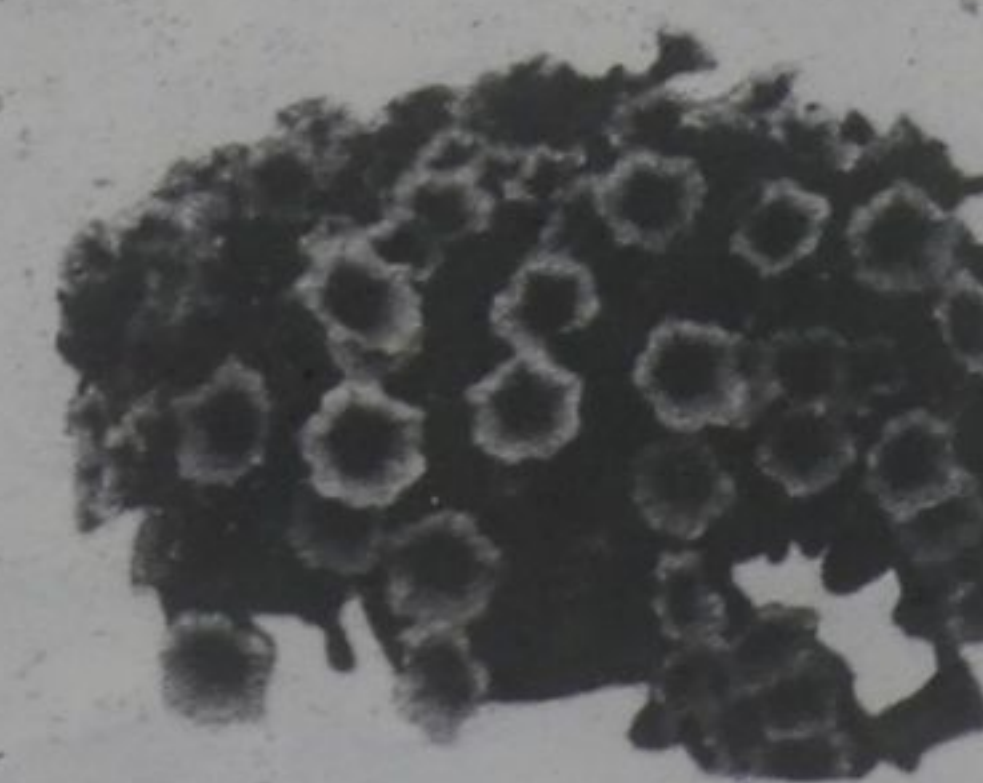
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