

## In the Courts Esplen found not guilty of manslaughter

A verdict of not guilty ended the manslaughter trial of 50-year-old Robert Marshall Esplen in Milton Supreme Court Thursday morning.

The jury was ordered to spend the night in a hotel following nine hours of deliberations without reaching a verdict Wednesday in the case of the Toronto area car dealership partner charged in connection with a shooting incident May 11 which resulted in the death of Andre Wysman, 23, of Milton.

Mr. Wysman who died several hours later the same day in Milton District Hospital was with his brother Leo and a friend, George Beaulieu, 24, fishing at the private pond on Mr. Esplen's property at Highway 25 and Number 10 Sideroad when the incident occurred.

Mr. Esplen testified he fired two shots from his .22 calibre rifle one at the pond and one in the air to make a noise and scare the men from his property.

He said the third shot which wounded Mr. Wysman fired accidentally when he took a step forward and slipped on the wet grass.

The three Milton men were seen at the pond by Mr. Esplen's wife when she got up at about 6.10 a.m.

Mr. Esplen testified he was not aware that anyone was hurt and thought a trick was being played on him when Leo Wysman, brother of the deceased, approached him and asked an ambulance be called.

He went to the house however to call police.

Mr. Esplen learned from Halton Regional police detectives later that evening of Mr. Wysman's death.

He said in testimony, that to this day, he can't believe it happened.

Defence lawyer David Humphrey in his final argument called the incident a fluke of all flukes accident.

The Espens will be selling their Halton Hills property according to Mr. Esplen's wife Patricia who broke down when the verdict of the seven woman five man jury was announced Thursday.

She said the country home which was built in 1973 by her husband held too many memories.

When Mr. Justice Patrick Galligan charged the jury Wednesday he said if they thought it was a case of accidental discharge or had reasonable doubt they must find the accused not guilty.

## Death threat investigated

Halton Regional Police are continuing their investigation into a threat made on the life of lawyer David Humphrey who won an acquittal in Ontario Supreme Court for Robert Marshall Esplen charged with manslaughter.

Minutes before accepting the jury's verdict Thursday, Mr. Justice Patrick Galligan disclosed the threat which was made Tuesday night.

In a telephone call to the Toronto home of the prominent criminal lawyer he was told if he was successful in defending Mr. Esplen, his life would be in danger. Mr. Justice Galligan said he considered the conduct of the caller not only an attempt to obstruct justice but contempt of court.

No one in the court came forward when the judge appealed to the caller to do so if he were in the courtroom.

Mr. Humphrey said he did not consider it in his case to be a serious matter adding the call was obviously from a friend of the victim.

Halton Regional police are working with Bell Canada in this investigation which the judge instigated.

Detective Bruce Richards who is handling the case said of the investigation, "these things take time."

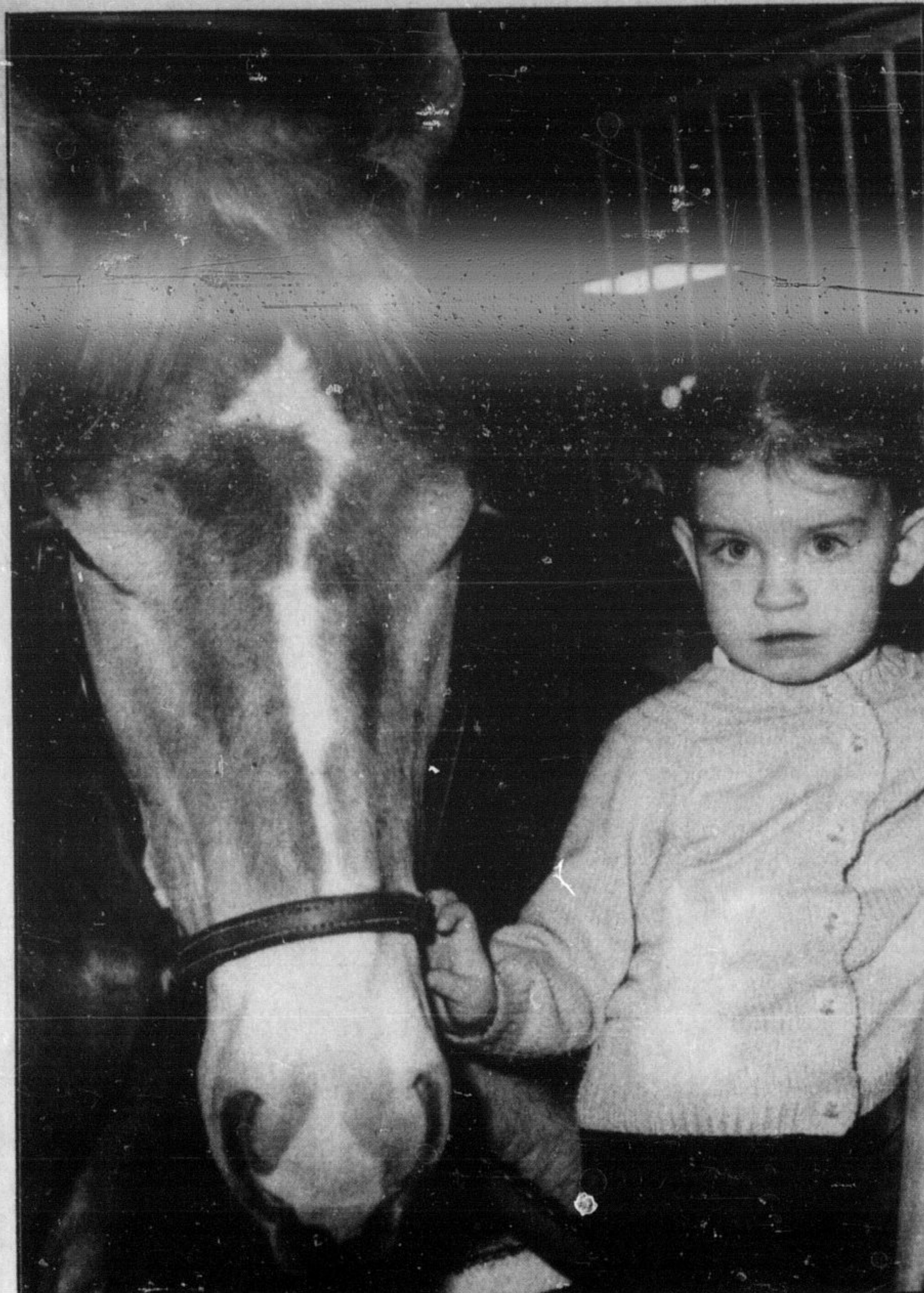
## Cathy...

(Continued from Pg. 1)

For several months, Cathy had lived with the family of her boyfriend and when the boy's mother Maria Vargas saw the story and picture, she called the paper.

She then lead Mr. Perras to a second apartment building which Cathy shared with several other people.

According to Cathy, part of the reason she replied so promptly to the news story was the fact a 10,000 peso (\$6,000) reward was also offered by her parents for information on Cathy and she feared she might be kidnapped.



**Gentle youngster**

Sunshine, nearly 10 months old, may be too young to join the Carlsberg team but his age does not hinder his appeal to young admirers. Sandra Martin, 3, had a chance to pet him at Milton Mall where two team members and two colts were on display recently.

## Region studying law to stop leaks

by Steve Arnold  
Plugging information leaks about the goings on of Halton regional government is the chief goal of a freedom of information bylaw to be presented to regional council later this year.

Combined with the hiring of an information officer for the region, it is one of several steps designed to improve the functioning of the seven-year-old level of government.

Regional Chairman Jack Raftis told a special council meeting last week that the bylaw would create a clear policy under which information about regional activities would be made public.

Mr. Raftis said he started the process of preparing the bylaw about two months ago "because what has gone on here for the last year is just unrealistic."

The special council meeting was called to give final approval to the recommendations of the Hickling-Johnson management study of regional operations.

Amended versions of some of those recommendations were presented by the management study committee, composed of the four mayors and Raftis. The total package of reforms recommended by the consultant and committee composed 51 recommendations and a detailed implementation plan devised by recently confirmed chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin.

Among the committee recommendations was the establishment of five

operating departments, taking in social services, planning, public works, health and business development.

Three administrative departments, taking in treasury, legal and personnel functions and an office of the CAO were also recommended.

Among the responsibilities of the chief administrative officer will be the co-ordination of advice to council and committees and the development of a "public awareness strategy".

The bylaw and information officer are to be parts of that strategy, which also requires reviews of all of the public awareness activities

being carried out by the current regional departments.

Mr. Perlin said the hiring of a public information officer "is certainly one of the issues that has to be addressed."

"We have to take action to ensure that the actions of this council get out and that they are reported correctly," he added.

The recommendations presented by the committee also encouraged a revision of the system by which councillors are given access to reports and other information; that the current department of social and family services be

reorganized into four divisions and that the recruitment and confirmation of the required senior staff take place

over the next four months.

Not all of the recommendations passed without opposition.

Peel Region sends some of its young offenders to the Sheridan Youth Home for counselling.

## Squall closes 401, 30 cars towed

Two young children and their mother escaped death when a tractor-trailer jackknifed and rode over on the car they were driving during a Wednesday afternoon blizzard on Highway 401 near Highway 25.

The family was among dozens of area motorists caught in a freak storm that sent cars and trucks skidding off the road and careening into each other.

Police, ambulance and firefighting personnel worked feverishly to cope with more than 30 accidents on a stretch of Highway between Kelso area and Trafalgar Rd.

Police admitted surprise there were no major casualties as a result of the treacherous conditions.

## Youth Home grant stays at \$10,000

The funding troubled Sheridan Youth Association nearly lost half of the \$10,000 it had been granted by Halton Region.

The Sheridan Youth Association is in charge of the Sheridan Youth Home on the grounds of E.C. Drury School. The Sheridan Youth Home provides shelter for young offenders and provides counselling and other related services.

Prior to Christmas it appeared the Sheridan Youth Home might curtail its services drastically as it could not receive enough money from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services to meet a cost overrun.

This problem was solved with a \$3,000 grant from the government which was enough to carry it into March.

The association applied for funding from Halton Region's Health and Social Services Committee, and after much debate, was given a grant of \$10,000.

Last Wednesday some Councillors thought the amount should be trimmed in half but this was defeated during a vote on the motion.

But the association now will be notified officially it will not receive the \$10,000 unless there is a matching grant from the Region of Peel.

Peel Region sends some of its young offenders to the Sheridan Youth Home for counselling.

Ambulance crews weaved their way through the standstill traffic, stopping only long enough at each accident scene to determine the extent of injury and taking away only those seriously hurt.

Milton firefighters spent two hours working with their life-saving hydraulic cutting tool to extract more than one trapped victim.

"I just couldn't believe it," was the reaction of Dennis Durante, a tow-truck operator with Durante's Esso Station on Highway 25.

The last time he recalled a similar scene was four years ago, "but the accidents didn't all happen at once like this time."

The highway mess meant a lively business for towing operators.

Mr. Durante said 25 vehicles were towed into the service station by himself and station help.

Another dozen were brought in by other tow-truck drivers.

Milton OPP later closed a section of the highway when a jackknifed tractor-trailer blocked the highway.

While Milton OPP attempted to deal with the Highway 401 mess, Burlington OPP had their hands full with identical

problems on a section of the Queen Elizabeth Way near Appleby Line.

A total of 36 cars, vans and tractor trailers collided at about 1.30 p.m.

Several accident victims were admitted to

Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington for cuts and bruises, but no major injuries were reported.

It took Burlington OPP nearly four hours before the highway was cleared.

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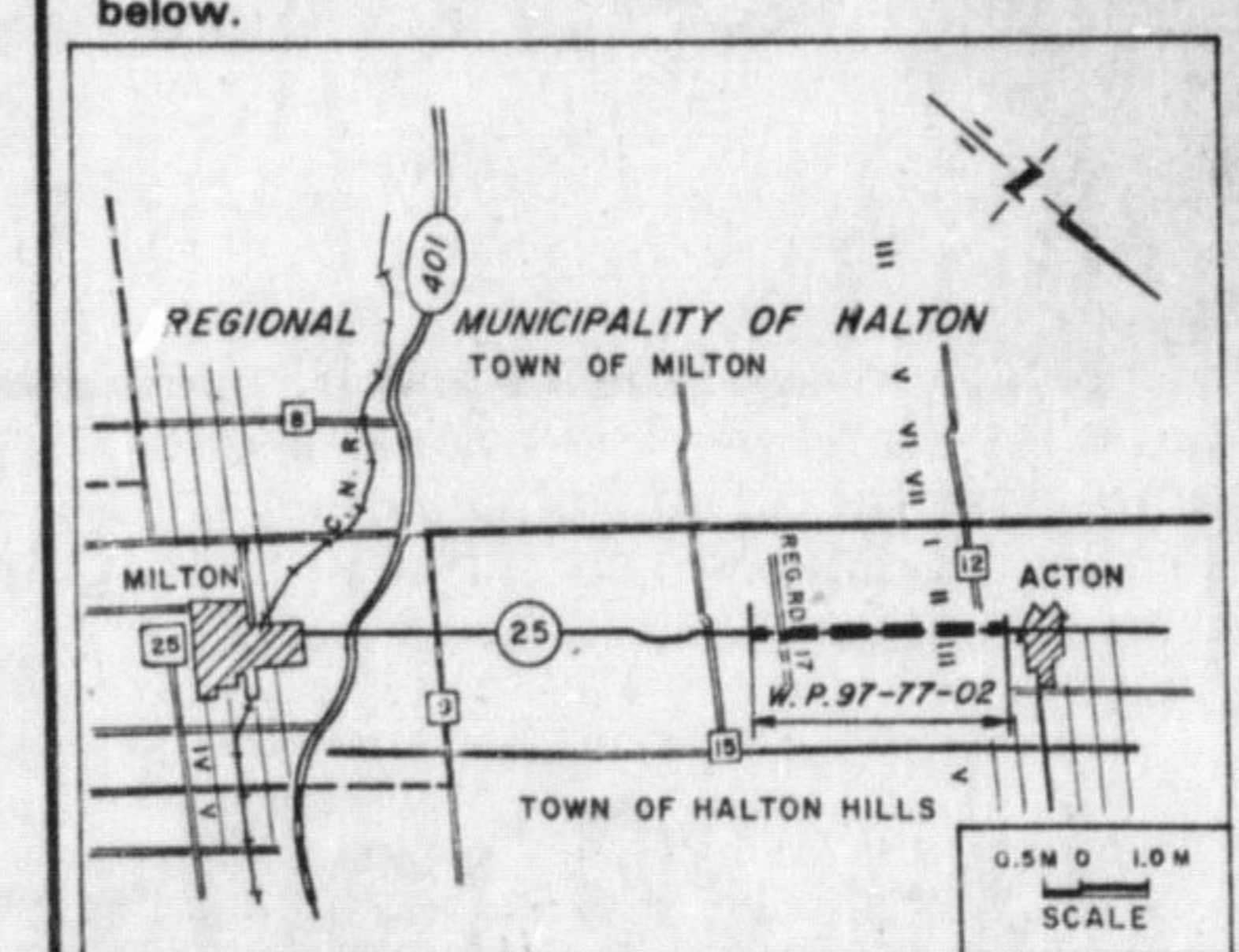
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## ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE

### NOTICE OF INFORMATION CENTRE

Construction Details - Highway 25

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications is presently preparing contract drawings for improvements to Highway 25 in the Regional Municipality of Halton. The project extends from just south of Regional Road 17 northward to the south limit of Acton. A plan of the area is shown below.



**General Information**  
The Ministry is proposing the following improvements:

- 1) Reconstruction and widening of driving lanes from 6.1 metres to 7.5 metres.
- 2) Construction of partial paved shoulders (0.5 metres).
- 3) Improvement of intersections.
- 4) Improvement of drainage.

Interested residents or other members of the public are welcome to discuss these proposals with the representatives of the Ministry who will be in attendance at the Information Centre at the time and date indicated in the schedule below. The proposed highway improvements scheme will be on display at the Information Centre.

For those residents who were unable to attend the presentation regarding improvements to Highway 25 from Regional Road 9 to Speyside due to inclement weather on February 19th, a repeat presentation will be held at the Information Centre. Questions related to this particular phase of reconstruction only should be directed to, Mr. Allan Sulavella, Senior Project Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Planning and Design Section, Central Region, 5000 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario, M2N 6E9. Telephone No: (416) 224-7569.

**Schedule**  
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 1981  
Time: 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
Place: Speyside Public School (Hwy. 25 at Esquing Road 17)

If you are unable to attend and have any enquiries you may direct these to the undersigned by telephone or in writing.

Mr. Gedas J. Smolakis, Project Manager, Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Planning and Design Section, Central Region, 5000 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 6E9 Telephone No: (416) 224-7567



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