



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Off with its head

Five-year-old Bradley Nicholas works on his jack-o-lantern Saturday during a free pumpkin carving activity at the final day for the Milton Farmers' Market.

OPP closes Milton station

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

Milton no longer has an OPP detachment.

Operations at the Steeles Avenue and Martin Street police station have shut down and the government-owned building is slated to open as a collision reporting centre on Monday, Nov. 3.

The move, in which 14 officers were transferred to detachments in Cambridge and Port Credit, is part of OPP reorganization, primarily a cost-savings plan that started in 1993.

A total of 81 stations among 183 across Ontario have closed down, said Staff Sgt. Robin McElary-Downer of the Port Credit detachment.

Milton was identified as one of the 81 stations to "cluster" with other detachments, she said.

Previously divided into 17 districts, the OPP reorganized the detachments into six regions. Milton is in the Greater Toronto Region, which spans from Niagara Falls to Whitby.

The former detachment will still serve as a sub-station for police patrolling Milton, however the 13 constables and a sergeant transferred now report to either Port Credit or Cambridge, said Staff Sgt. McElary-

Downer.

The closure means no staff sergeant or support staff are required in Milton, she said.

The new collision reporting centre will accommodate accident reports in the west end of the Greater Toronto Region — on Hwy. 401, Hwy. 7 and Hwy. 25.

Area drivers involved in non-injury accidents and collisions involving no criminal activity on local highways are required to report to the centre as soon as possible, instead of having an officer attend the scene.

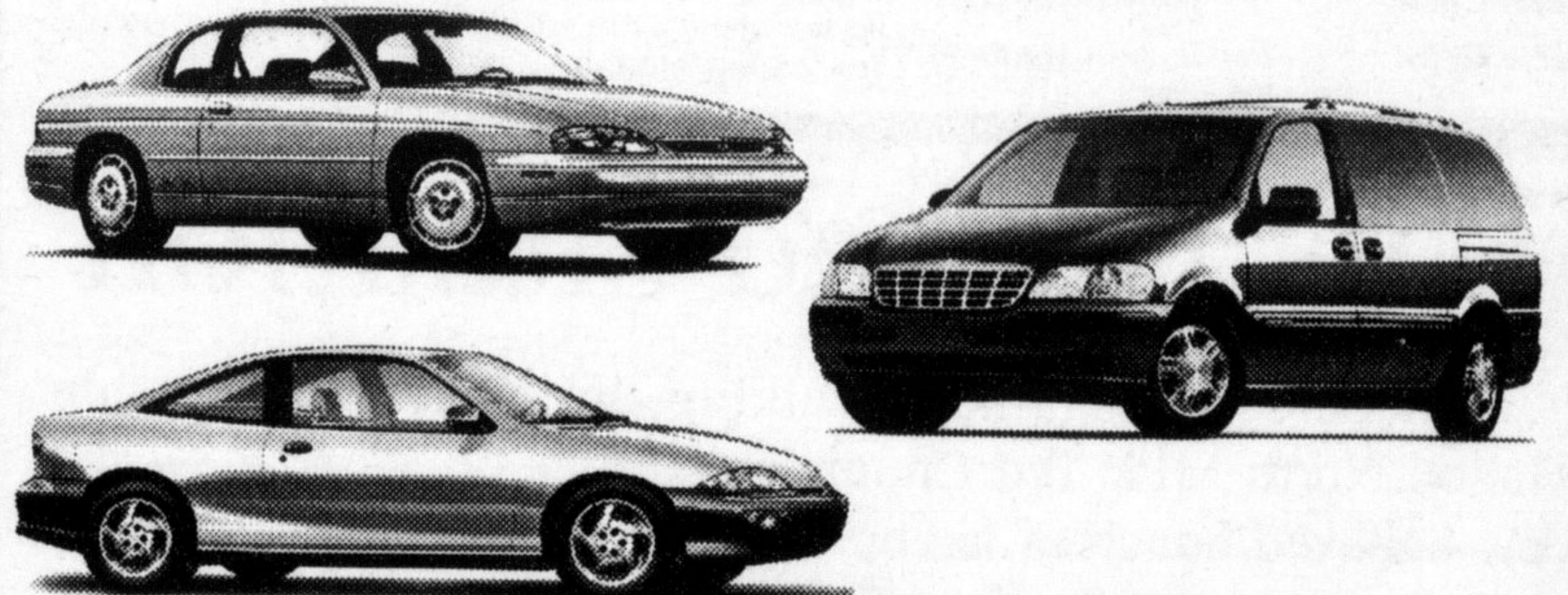
The centre will be open Monday to Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Officers will attend non-injury collisions outside of these hours.

Drivers reporting accidents must have their vehicles with them, either driven or towed in.

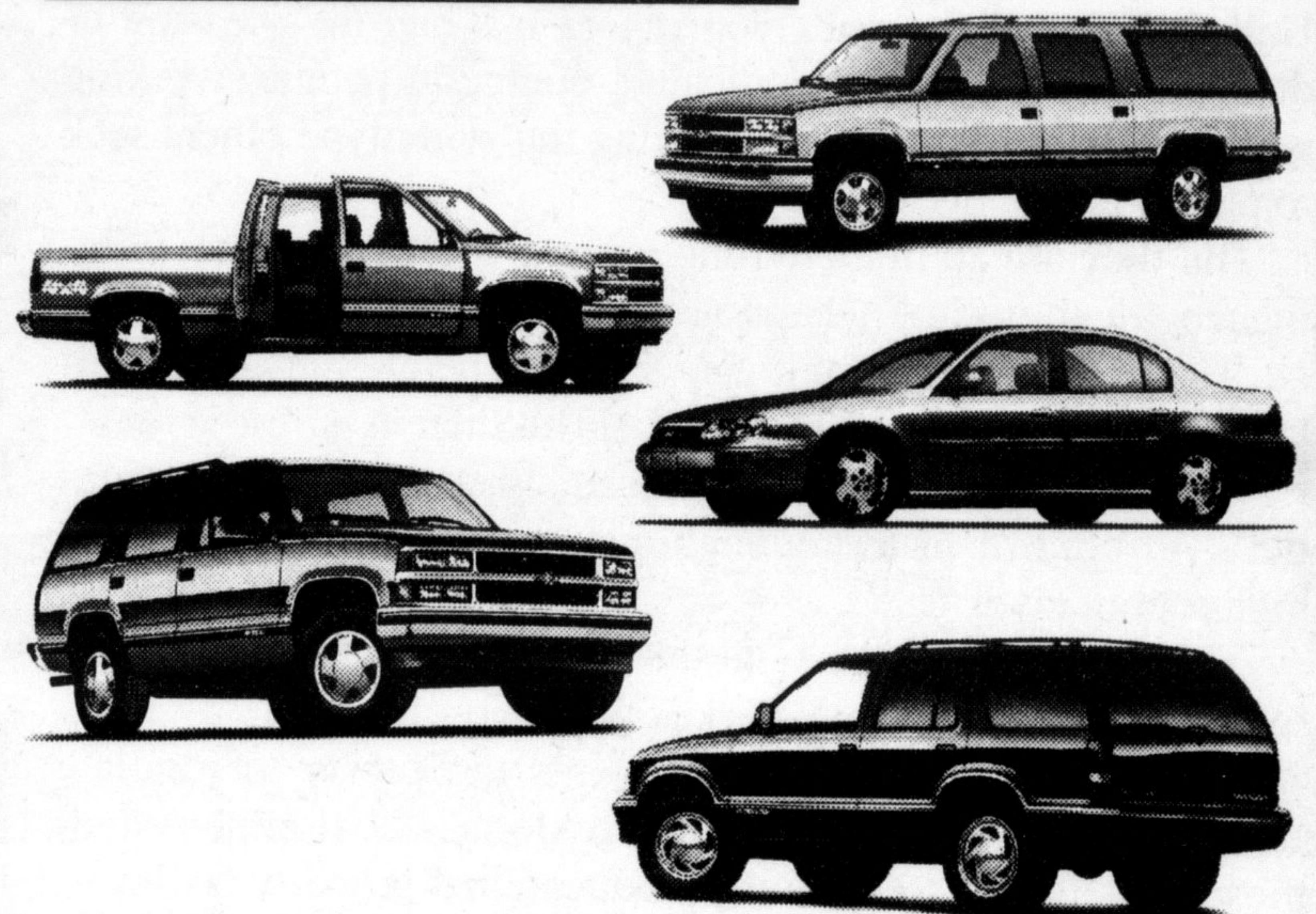
The system allows minor accidents to be removed from the highway faster and frees up OPP officers for other duties.

The centre is meant to accommodate highway accident reports only and is staffed by OPP officers, however Staff Sgt. McElary-Downer said sharing the facility with Halton Regional Police is being looked at as a future possibility.

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