



Photo by PETER McCUSKER

Jean Caine, Pauline Mihok and Minister of Health and Long-term Care Elizabeth Witmer (left to right) help celebrate the opening of the rehabilitation unit at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.

## Rehab unit officially open

By SANDRA OMAND  
Special to The Champion

Recovering from a stroke or fractured hip has just gotten easier for residents of Milton and Oakville thanks to a new 39-bed rehabilitation unit at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.

On hand to officially open the \$2-million facility funded by the provincial government was Elizabeth Witmer, minister of health and long-term care.

"This is really very positive because in talking to some of the patients today there are individuals who were receiving treatment in Hamilton and Toronto who have

now been able to be repatriated and come back to their own community," Ms Witmer told a gathering of 80 patients, staff and local dignitaries in the reception area of the new unit.

Previously, residents of Oakville and Milton were forced to drive to Toronto or Hamilton to receive rehabilitation therapy. This was not only inconvenient, it placed additional stresses on patients and family members.

"It is much better for their recovery if people can receive care within their home community," said Mayor Anne Mulvale.

With the addition of the new third floor unit, patients go from the acute care stage to in-patient rehabilitation and on to the out-patient stage without ever leaving

Oakville.

"It is a continuum of care for our patients in our community and it is very supportive of family and the community at large," said Pauline Mihok, patient care manager of the rehabilitation unit and Step Up Program.

While the need for a rehabilitation facility in Halton has been evident for sometime, it was not until 1998 that support was received for the program through the Health Services Restructuring Commission.

Witmer said funding for the new unit follows the government's objective under the restructuring process to strengthen the health system.

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## Deoni case remanded

Catholic school Trustee Joe Deoni — who faces fraud charges — will return to court next month for a pre-trial.

Mr. Deoni appeared in Ontario Court (general division) in Milton with his new lawyer Peter DiMartino Friday.

He's slated to return to court November 1 for a pre-trial. A trial date is to be set that day.

Assistant Crown attorney Judy Mungovon asked the court to schedule the pre-trial on the earliest date available to speed up the case, which has been ongoing for over a year.

The trial was postponed several times while Mr. Deoni's first lawyer requested time to receive and review all legal documents. Then, Mr. Deoni changed lawyers.

Mr. Deoni, who was acclaimed in 1997 to the position of Milton school trustee (English) for the Catholic District School Board, was ordered to stand trial following a preliminary hearing March 25.

He was charged in March, 1998 with fraud over \$5,000 following a two-month Halton Regional Police investigation.



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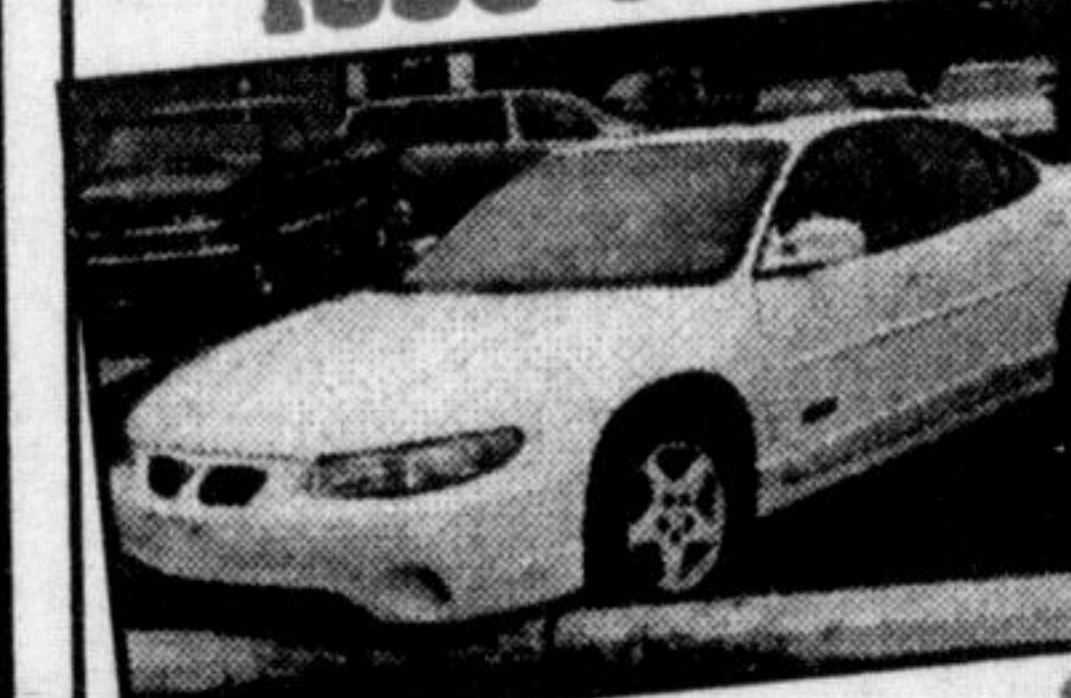
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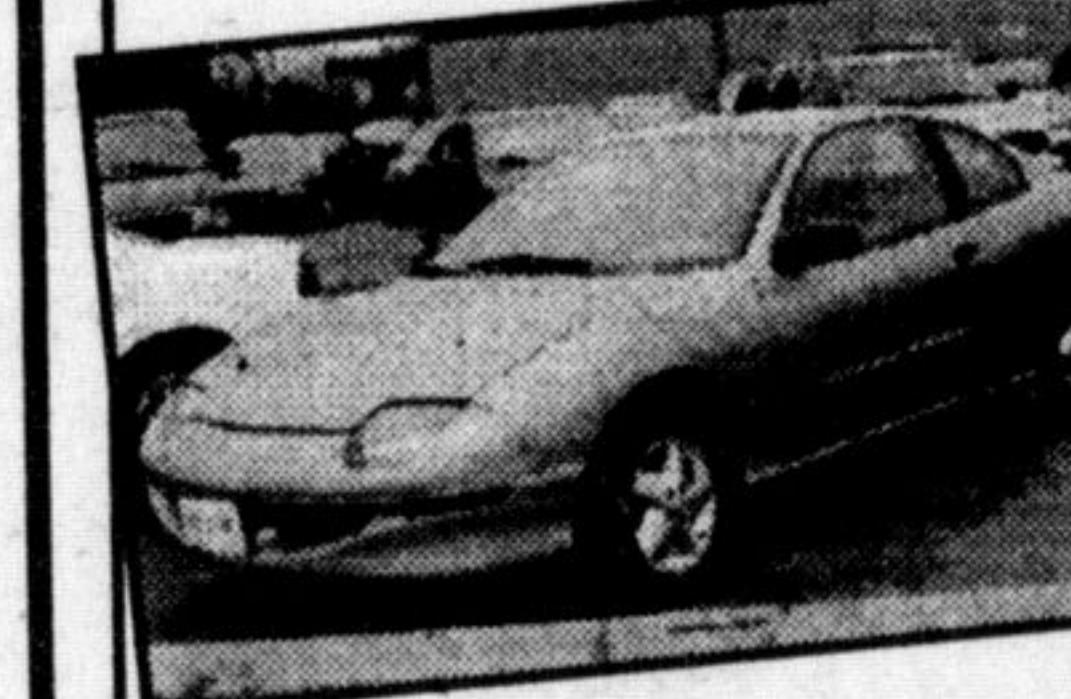
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