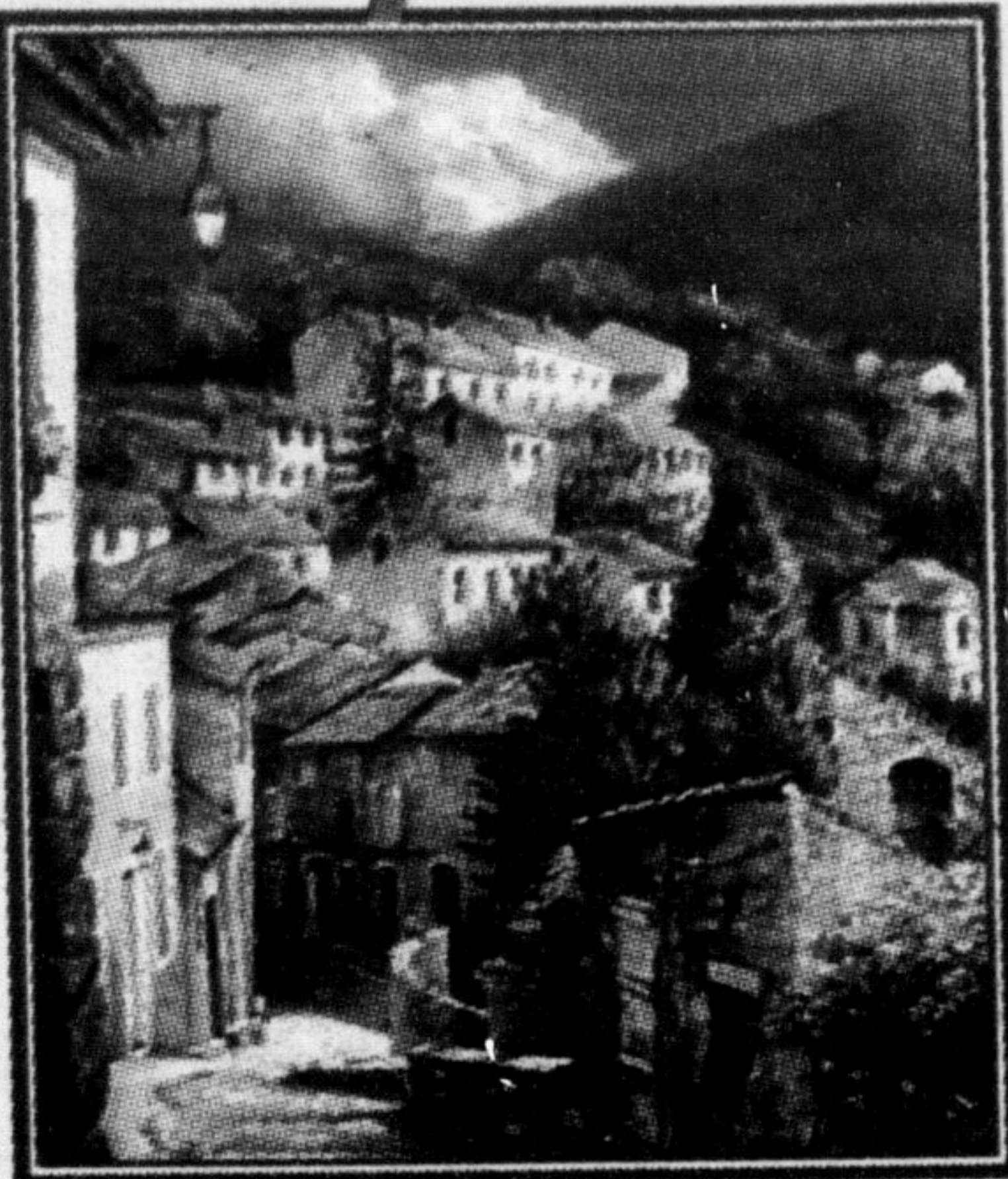


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More funding coming to hospital due to growth

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) received another budget boost from Provincial Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer June 14.

A \$114 million funding commitment is to be split between hospitals in Halton, York, Durham, Peel and other surrounding areas to help them deal with the effects of population growth on the health care system.

But final numbers on what each hospital or hospital corporation will receive aren't yet available, said GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance Executive Director Jim Armstrong.

"The hospitals won't even know that until they get an official letter," he said.

The new money stems partly from a one-time funding commitment which has now been made permanent.

In addition, the 905 hospitals have been given a 2 per cent base budget hike.

The funding is designed to keep up with population growth in the GTA, which is double that of the rest of the province.

An aging population is also putting pressure on 905 hospitals.

More funding is expected later this year, said Mr. Armstrong.

"The minister was quick to say

this was a first installment and there will be others in the fall," he said.

"If this were it, we'd be concerned. But we don't think it is."

Further announcements will be made once the Province has looked over the operating plans of individual health care corporations or hospitals.

The hospital alliance is made up of 11 hospital corporations including HHS, which runs the amalgamated Milton District and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial hospitals.

The Alliance was formed four years ago to lobby for GTA area hospitals.

Bricks on sale for millennium garden at Chris Hadfield Park

Looking for a way to mark the millennium? Milton's 2000 Committee has the answer.

For \$200, local residents and businesses can buy a brick for the soon-to-be constructed Milton Millennium Garden at Chris Hadfield Park.

Each will be inscribed with the donator's name or a special announcement of a millennium birth, wedding, passage or any other memorable occasion.

The bricks will form the basis of a stone walkway that links the three components of the Millennium Garden — the 'Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow' sections.

Only 600 millennium bricks will be sold.

Construction of the Milton Millennium Garden will kick off tomorrow.

To pre-order a brick, call Val Derrien at 878-7252, ext. 184, or Joy Anderson at 702-3143.



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