

Growth will likely attract more physicians to town

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practitioners are overextended and have had to refuse new patients.

The only way to solve the problem is to bring new doctors into town, said Cindy Lunau, a Town councillor who also sits on the hospital board.

But declining enrollment in medical schools combined with a brain drain to the United States has made the pickings slim for communities clamouring for new blood.

"It's going to be a huge challenge," admitted Ms Lunau. "It's hopeful we'll be able to attract people because of our growth and the support of the community."

MDH's amalgamation with Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital under the umbrella of Halton Healthcare Services will likely make the area more attractive to physicians due to the amount of support services it provides, she said.

But orphan patients — or those without a local doctor — are a serious problem. Ideally, Milton should have approximately 32 GPs, or one for every 1,500 residents. But instead there are about 15, and they're spread thin.

"There's no magic number," said MDH's Chief Operating Officer Cindy McDonnell. "But we're targeting five and we'd like to have eight more general practitioners."

Savoline throws hat in ring

Regional chair announces she'll run for position decided by public

By PAUL MITCHISON
Special to The Champion

Joyce Savoline said she's thrilled about running a campaign that could cost up to \$90,000 in order to keep the job she managed to win during the 1997 race by spending nothing.

For the first time since Halton Region was formed, voters will elect the Halton Regional chair in November, instead of it being decided by elected councillors.

In a speech from the backyard of her modest home in Burlington's Palmer community Tuesday morn-

ing, Ms Savoline announced she'll seek the job she's held since 1994.

The candidate sounded genuinely pleased about the changed process, despite having to campaign for voters in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville.

"I'm a passionate Canadian," she said at her press conference.

"One of our democratic rights is to choose at the allocated time, the candidate of their own choice. The public is very happy about this new change in the way we do business."

A 27-year Burlington resident who was first elected to her city council 1982, Ms Savoline chose to keep her announcement light, leaving the nitty-gritty for a series



Joyce Savoline

of position papers she intends to release.

"With every year in public life I feel I'm enjoying it more and more. My focus has always been people," she said.

"I'm still passionate about my job, I love every minute of it."

Ms Savoline is the first candidate to declare for the position, and potential opponents will have until Friday, Oct. 13, to sign the necessary forms.

No other credible candidates are rumored to be considering challenging Ms Savoline, a factor that will no doubt determine the size of her campaign war chest. Legislation allows for maximum spending in the \$90,000 range.

Ms Savoline acknowledged she'll be seeking campaign contributions, but declined to estimate what she might spend.

She said she intends to run a "credible campaign," whether or

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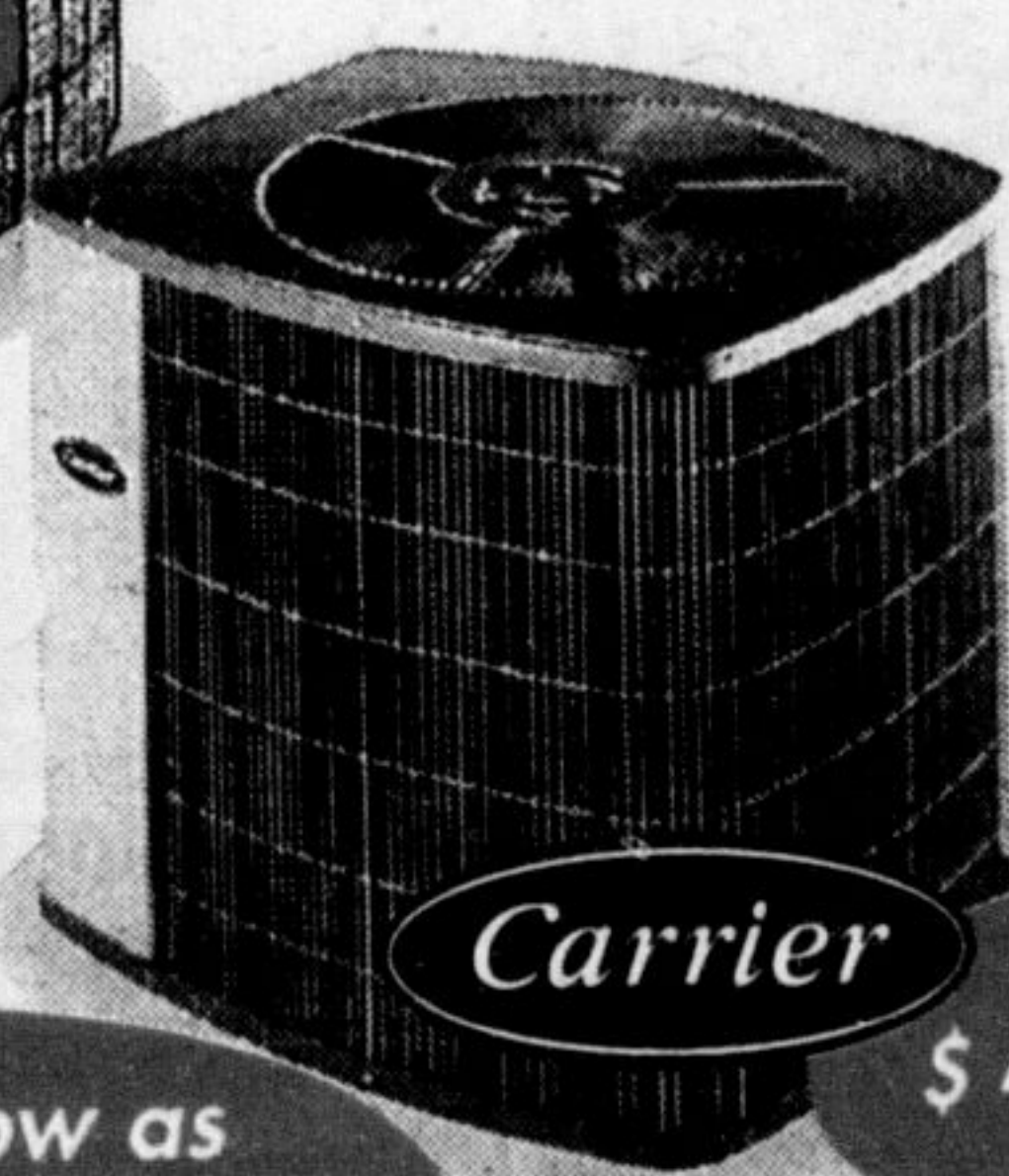
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