

For
goodness
sake ...



A good health
tip from
Milton District
Hospital

Season's
Greetings



Halton
Healthcare
Services extends
warmest wishes
to you and yours
this holiday
season.
Have a happy
and safe holiday.

"For goodness sake"
is brought to you courtesy of

Halton Healthcare
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and
The Canadian Champion

✓Fit to be tied

Gemma Aguba (left) and Laura Gibson put the finishing touches on a Christmas parcel as part of the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary's ongoing gift-wrapping service at Milton Mall. Proceeds go to the hospital foundation.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



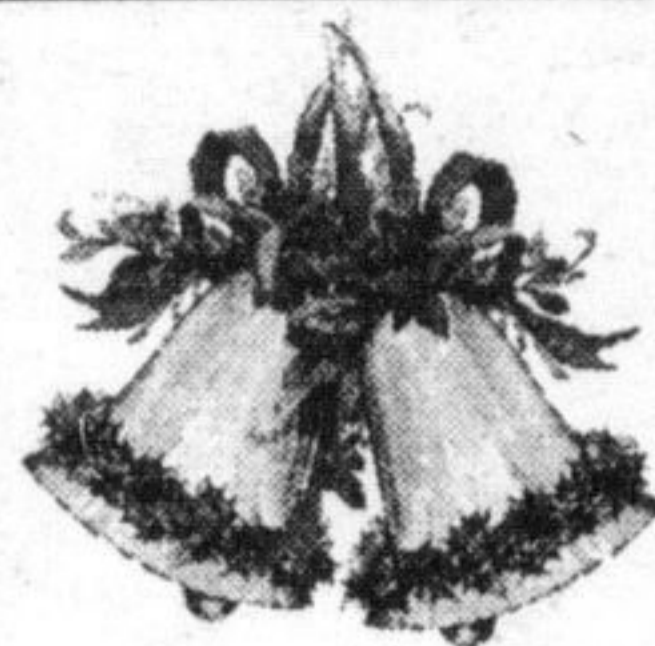
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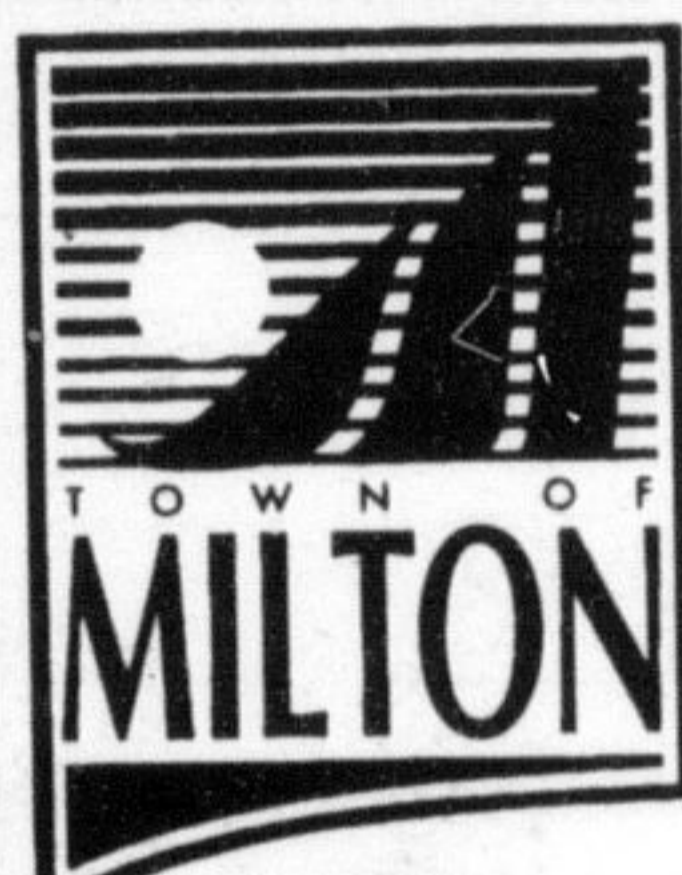
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The
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wishes all
a safe
and happy
holiday
season



2000

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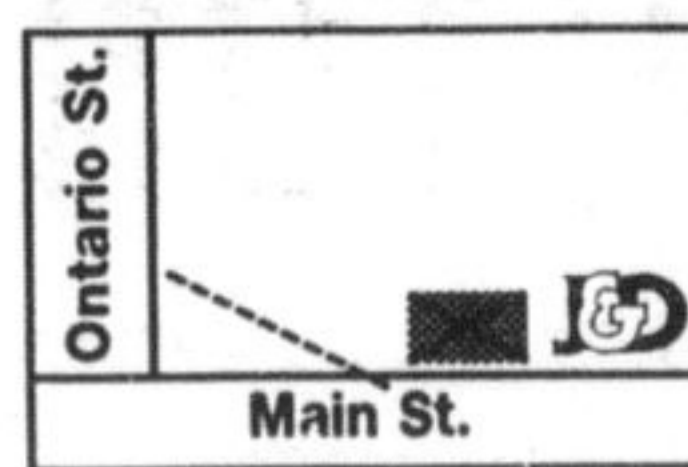
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Hospital ready for the crunch

Emergency room busy over Xmas

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the town, not a creature was stirring — except Milton District Hospital (MDH) staff, who are poised to tackle the annual holiday emergency room crush if it takes place again this year.

The seasonal closing of most family physicians' offices as well as area walk-in clinics during the height of the flu season typically has emergency rooms hopping as madly as a shopping mall on Christmas Eve.

And even facilities able to handle its own population can be flooded with patients from others that have gone over capacity.

So in the hopes of avoiding the seasonal slam, Halton Healthcare Services, which operates MDH as well as Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, has taken preventative measures.

Elective surgeries, for example, will be barred during the busy holiday weeks, freeing up beds for bustling emergency department traffic, said MDH Associate Chief of Staff Dr. Marion King.

And a 24-hour emergency department physician, along with an on-call back-up, has been scheduled.

Additional nursing staff is also set to work through the holidays.

"We're staffing to expect it'll be a heavy use time. We're using people where they're most needed," said Dr. King. "We anticipate the crush will begin the weekend before Christmas."

An increase in emergency department health care funding may go some way in easing the crunch.

But for now it's basically a wait-and-see situation, said Dr. King.

"We've planned as much as we can to give us the maximum amount of capacity," she said.

"If the volumes aren't significantly different from last year then I think we've got it well planned."

An increase in the flu vaccine of the general population should stave off some of the emergency department pressure.

"So it doesn't spread like wildfire," said Dr. King.