

Prisoners must earn early release: minister



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Ontario Correctional Services Minister Rob Sampson checks out the new entry point x-ray machine shown by a Maplehurst operations manager Paul Larocque.

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A separate area for females has yet to be built. The visiting area can occupy up to 25 people. Three separate no-contact visiting rooms are set up with a metal stool and phone on both sides of the window.

A video remand monitor is set up for inmates wishing to speak to the judge over the monitor instead of travelling to the court house. This system isn't currently in use in Halton.

Two staff members are on duty 24 hours a day in the central control area and monitor five different computer systems. One hundred and sixty-eight cameras are located within the complex, except in

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ROB SAMPSON

the individual cells.

Keeping the inmates in one area and not having to transport them to other areas of the complex makes the facility more effective, Mr. Sampson

added.

In December of 2000, the legislature passed the Corrections Accountability Act, a law that requires inmates to remain drug and alcohol free and actively participate in programs to earn the privilege of early release.

"In Ontario, (prisoners) are not rewarded with fishing, golf and cocktail parties," Mr. Sampson said. "We believe you have to earn your (early) release. This can be done through participating in rehabilitation programs."

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh said the new facility will make for safer working conditions for the staff.

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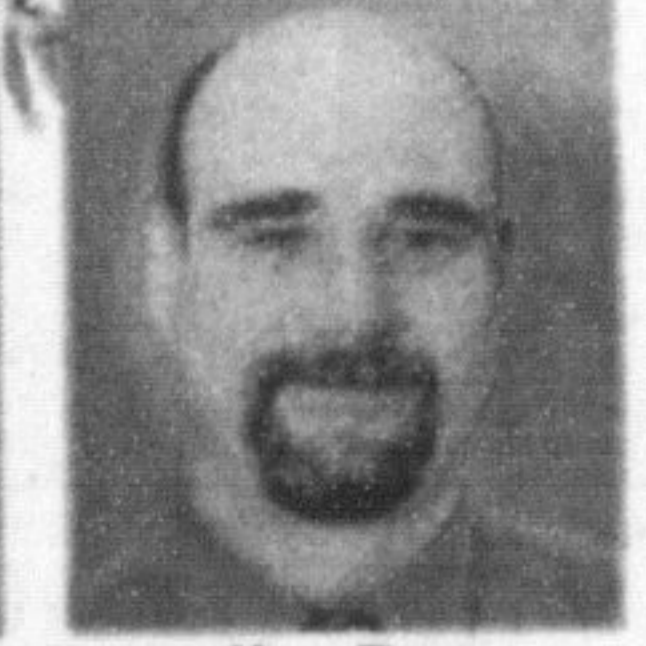
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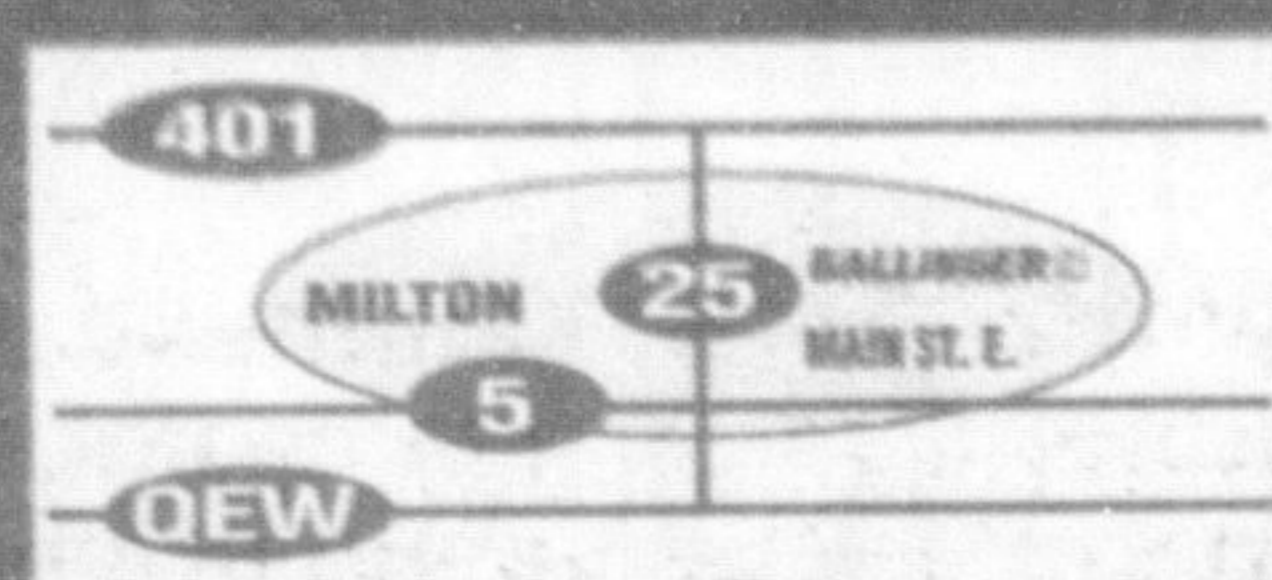


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