

Halton board comes under fire from trustee

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Other concerns noted by Ellis included:

- Inappropriate appointment procedure of trustees.
- Misadministration of trustee allowances.
- Abuse of board policy/bylaws regarding staff hiring and negotiations.
- Violation of bylaws in private session concerning the recent approval of the director's contract and pay increase.

Ellis considered quitting, but following discussions with ministry personnel and a former trustee, decided that would be too easy. "I won't be resigning, I will be fighting what I consider injustice at the board," he said.

Ellis said he could not elaborate on some incidents, because they occurred in private sessions. The trustee also limited his comments because of the meeting's busy agenda. "I understand this is somewhat of a shock to you and I want to let you have time to think about this," he told Gardiner.

"I don't think I need to think about it, but I appreciate you letting the meeting proceed," the chair replied.

When contacted yesterday, Gardiner said she didn't want to have a war with Ellis in the media.

"I don't want to engage in a battle of character assassination in the newspaper, especially with one of my colleagues," she said. "Mr. Ellis is more than entitled to his opinion."

When asked if she thought this action would divide the board, Gardiner said, "The most important thing that I work for is our system. I enjoy tremendous support in our system and among the vast majority of trustees."

The education director said Ellis' concerns came out of the blue and had not been discussed with him.

He said Ellis' concerns are not specific enough yet for a response, but if enough details are provided a reply will be made. Papke said those details may come forward at the board's June 27 meeting.

The education director did note that financial information updates were shared before school closure votes. "We have regularly provided up-to-date cash flow information."

As for trustees voting on issues with little warning, Papke said he could only speak hypothetically. He said sometimes the board must respond immediately to provincial government initiatives. If trustees wait for another meeting, the initiative may already be in place, Papke noted. "This is done with the consent of the majority of the board," he said. In these situations, trustees hold a vote to waive the

rules and deal with the issue immediately.

"Not everyone is comfortable with the rate of speed which we have to make some decisions," said Papke. "But the board is within its rights to do that."

He also added that Ellis is entitled to his opinions about the situation.

Vice-chair Chapin declined to comment following Wednesday's meeting.

— With files from Herb Garbut

Fax your letters to the editor to 878-4943, or drop them off at 191 Main St. E. anytime.

Attention Residents of Milton



www.region.halton.on.ca

HALTON REGION'S

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As part of Halton's ongoing watermain maintenance program, Regional staff and our contractor will be cleaning the watermains in the Town of Milton commencing the week of **JUNE 10, 2001**. This work will continue for approximately 6 weeks.

There may be some inconvenience to you during our operation. Discoloured water is discharged during cleaning and to avoid having it enter your home/place of business, please follow the steps noted below:

- Do not use water between the times indicated in your **BLUE LETTER**, which we will provide to you approximately 2 days prior to working on your street.
- When we are finished for the day on your street (times indicated in the **BLUE LETTER**) please turn on your cold water tap in your basement and let it run until the water is clear.

To keep informed of our progress, check the ads in this newspaper again and look for our **BLUE LETTER** in your mailbox for the dates we'll be working on your street.

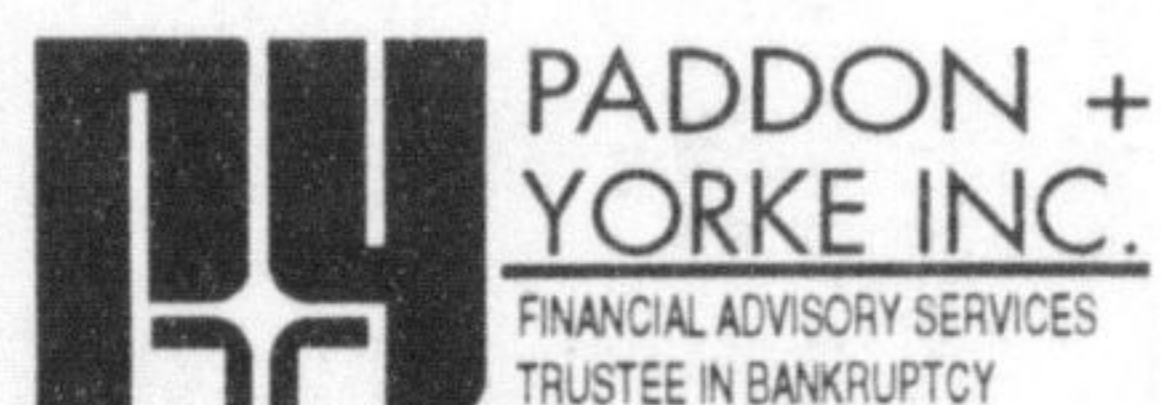
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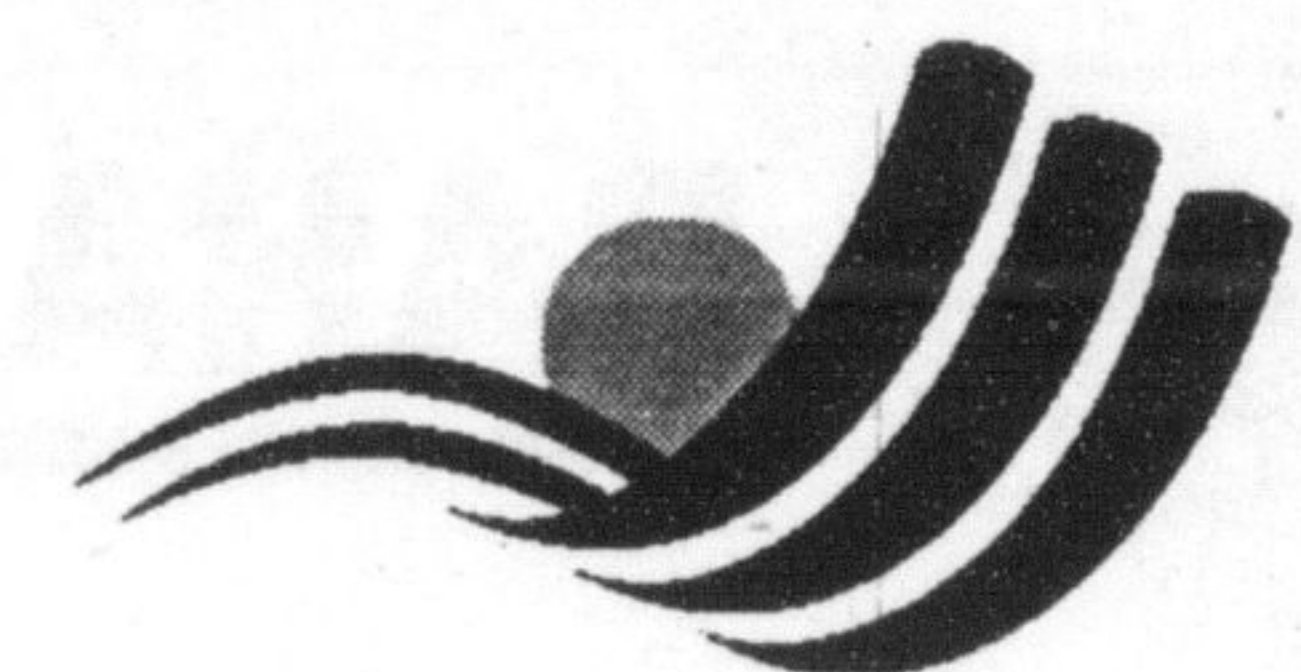
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A better solution!

New Family Physician accepting patients in Milton



Halton Healthcare

They say that good things come to those who wait...

After just about a year of actively recruiting for doctors in the Milton area, MDH is pleased to announce that Dr. Mustafa Kamouna, a family physician, began accepting new patients last week.

Dr. Kamouna received his medical degree in 1993 from the University of Baghdad in Iraq where he grew up. "Going into medicine was an easy choice for me," he explains. "My father is an ophthalmologist, my mother is a paediatrician and my brother is also a general practitioner. We're kind of a medical family."

He left Iraq in 1995 and moved to Jordan where he completed his residency in Emergency medicine. It was while he was in Jordan that he began to research the idea of moving to Canada.

"Because of the sanctions after the Gulf War, there was very little communication with hospitals and universities in other countries which I found limited me. I decided I wanted to go to an English-speaking country because my medical degree is in English," he explained. "I chose Canada kind of on an instinct. I knew very little about the country other than it was peaceful and I had heard the people were nice."

He received permission to immigrate in March of 1998 and came to Canada a month later.

After a brief stop at the University of Saskatchewan, where he worked as a research assistant, he moved to

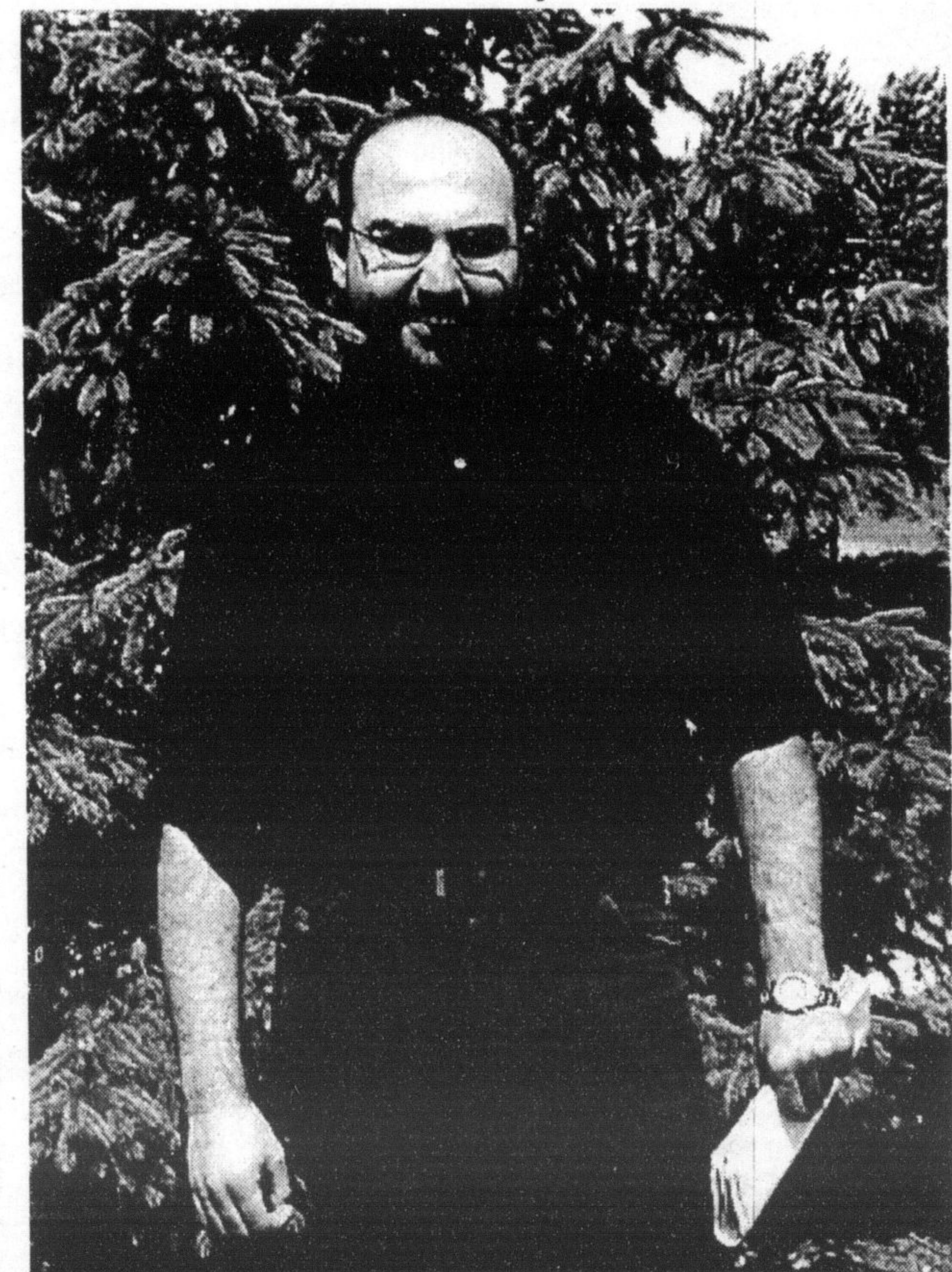
Newfoundland to work as a resident in the Emergency Department at Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital. He also had the opportunity to practice family medicine, in various locations throughout Newfoundland.

In June of 2000, he moved to Ontario because his family had come from Iraq and settled in Mississauga. While he was waiting to receive the necessary documentation to practice family medicine in Ontario, "commuted" to the east coast where did locums in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. In December of 2000, after completing his Family Practice exam, he worked in the Emergency Departments at Toronto General Hospital and St. Catherine's General Hospital and began working in a clinic in Mississauga a half day a week. It was through a friend at this clinic that he discovered the opportunity in Milton.

"I visited the hospital and liked it immediately and the opportunity was exactly what I was looking for," he explains. "I enjoy family medicine but I wanted to be affiliated with a hospital because I like working in that setting also - and the location is ideal."

Dr. Kamouna started working in the MDH Emergency Department in March and the rest is history. "Everyone was very helpful as far as ideas for starting a new office and letting me know where space was available," he explained. "All of the staff at the hospital were very kind."

Written by Rebecca Stoneman Public Relations Associate at Halton Healthcare Services.



Dr. Kamouna is seeing patients in Milton three days a week: one full day on Wednesday, and a half day on both Thursday and Friday. To book an appointment, please call 905-878-6793.