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## Halton preparing to tackle new smoking restrictions

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**  
*The Champion*

Smoking in Halton-area restaurants and bars will be a thing of the past if the Region's health and social services committee has its way.

The committee re-enforced a previous request for smoke-free public areas in the four municipalities by 2002 during a meeting last Tuesday.

"Obviously, one of the major reasons for 100 per cent smoke-free (public areas) is because of the health issues and health risks. The other key issue is the issue of de-normalizing the use of tobacco, especially as far as kids are concerned," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton's medical officer of health.

"One hundred per cent smoke-free is one of the pillars of a comprehensive tobacco program that gets kids to start smoking a lot less," he said. "Just as importantly, for those adults trying to quit it's been shown to improve the cessation rate."

The request came on the heels of

**"One hundred per cent smoke-free is one of the pillars of a comprehensive tobacco program that gets kids to start smoking a lot less. Just as importantly, for those adults trying to quit it's been shown to improve the cessation rate."**

**DR. BOB NOSAL**

a staff report suggesting Halton be brought in line with other area municipalities that have already implemented more restrictive smoking bylaws.

Peel, York and Toronto have already initiated 100 per cent

smoke-free public area restrictions.

Current bylaws in Milton, Burlington and Halton Hills restrict restaurants to a 30 per cent floor space smoking area and bars to 50 per cent. Oakville limits restaurant and bars to a 30 per cent smoking area.

Both Oakville and Burlington are in the process of re-evaluating their existing smoking bylaws. Milton has yet to formally address the issue this time around, but the majority of councillors previously told *The Champion* they would favour stricter smoking restrictions.

The report saw little opposition from regional councillors, who agreed to bring the issue forward to their respective municipal councils. "The public, I think, would support it now, whereas a couple years ago it didn't," said Milton Councillor Richard Malboeuf.

Burlington Councillor Rick Craven agreed, saying the four municipalities should look at a uniform bylaw rather than each set out their own rules. "We have to show some leadership on this. We have to take control of the situation."

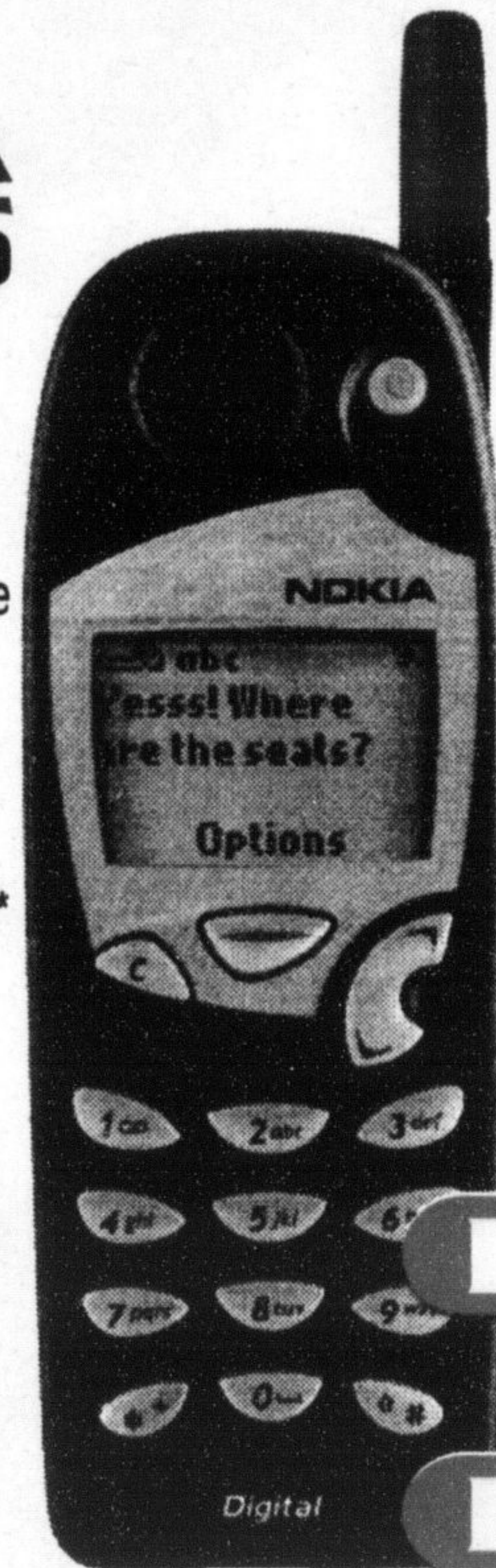
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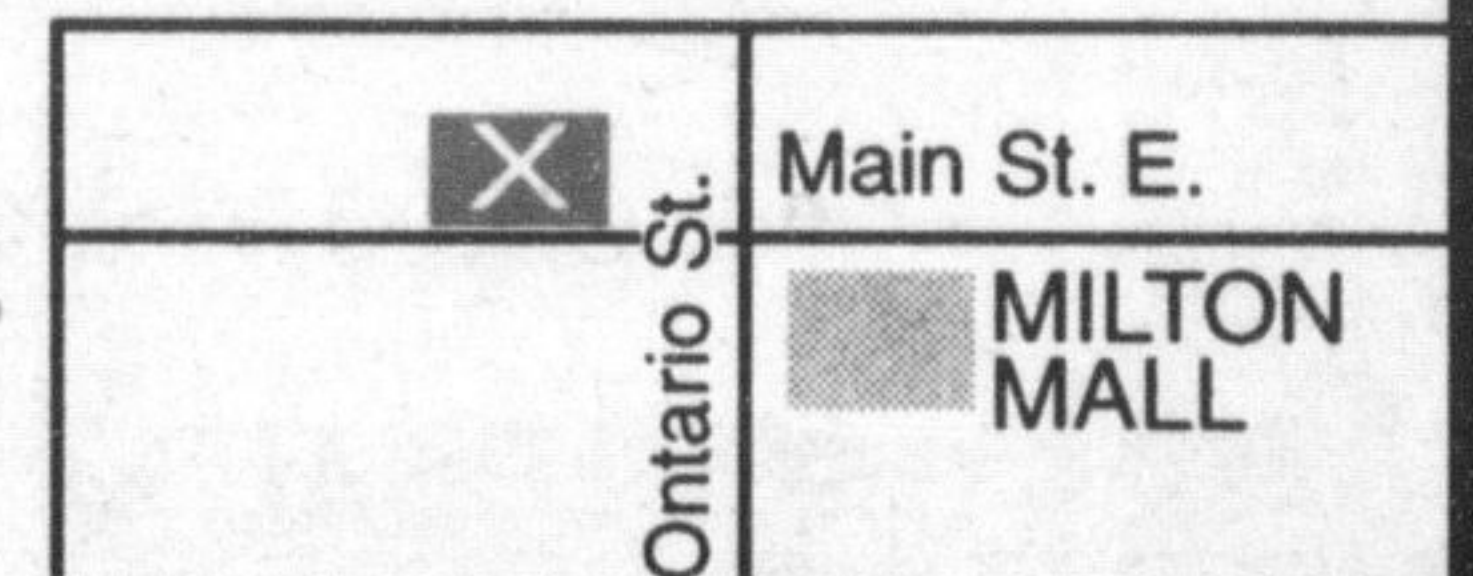
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