

HHS forming taskforce to attract doctors to Milton

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**
The Champion

Town council threw its unanimous support behind a Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) initiative to form a physician recruitment taskforce Monday night.

"There's been a great deal of participation from the community (in physician recruitment)," said Councillor Cindy Lunau, the Town representative with HHS. "The hospital (Milton District) has always been a prime focus for this community and it's important we

continue to feel pride in it."

With 20 physicians in town (as of this summer when two new doctors arrive), Milton is a designated "under-serviced" community. Based on population figures, 23 physicians are needed to meet community demand. By 2006 — if the population grows as expected — the Town will need 42.

Four family physicians have opened practices in Milton over the past 18 months. Three are still accepting patients.

The goal of the taskforce would be to attract new physicians and retain the ones already here, something that is both time consuming

and difficult given the current situation in Ontario, warned HHS President John Oliver.

"We're certainly not the only ones trying to recruit physicians," he said. "There's areas looking for doctors from all over the province, the country."

The best place to begin recruitment is in the high schools, continued Mr. Oliver. "The best return rate from medical schools are the students who grew up here, who know the town. They're the ones who'll come back, so we need to get our high school students thinking about a career in healthcare."


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Trial put off


Due to transportation delays from Maplehurst Correctional Centre to courts in light of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) strike, the on-going fraud trial of Campbellville resident Charles Currie was delayed Tuesday in Burlington court.

Mr. Currie is charged with 25 counts of fraud under \$5,000 and one count of fraud over \$5,000 in connection with dealings at the Village Pine Shoppe in Campbellville.

The new trial date has yet to be finalized, but is proposed for June.



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