

Former Milton surgeon loses licence to practice in Ontario

Dr. Kenneth Bradley had three hearings, but licence wasn't revoked until now

By **FANNIE SUNSHINE**

The Champion

Monday's decision by the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons stripping a former Milton surgeon of his licence to practice medicine in Ontario came too little, too late for Susan McGowen.

Ms McGowen's father, Fernando Carlo, 68, died in 1993 two days after Dr. Kenneth Bradley operated on him to remove part of his colon at Georgetown Memorial and District Hospital.

"Ultimately, it does bring closure and has raised public awareness about the medical system," Ms McGowen said.

In a 1995 disciplinary hearing probing Mr. Carlo's death, Mr. Carlo's family called for revocation of Dr. Bradley's licence. But the college chose to place restrictions on his licence, including supervision when dealing with patients until he underwent a 12-month retraining program as a resident in surgery.

But at Monday's hearing in Toronto, his licence was taken

away after Dr. Bradley pleaded no contest to charges of professional misconduct and failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession related to the 1993 death of a 64-year-old woman.

The patient, whose name is protected under a publication ban, died of cardiac arrest after a bowel operation Dr. Bradley performed at the Georgetown District and Memorial Hospital.

The patient's blood pressure dropped significantly after surgery and she also experienced internal bleeding.

Following her death, doctors found a large blood clot on the surface of her bowel measuring 17 cm and weighing 360 grams.

Dr. Bradley — who had hospital privileges in Georgetown since 1978 but mainly focused his practice and surgeries in Milton — Monday signed a written undertaking stating he would never apply for a licence reinstatement in Ontario. Doctors who are stripped of their licence to practice medicine can normally apply for reinstatement after a year.

"Hopefully people will now come forward with complaints, Ms McGowen said.

"I don't know how many people know all it takes is writing a letter to the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons in order for them to act on a complaint. I'm glad to see the college finally did the right thing."

Following the hearing Dr. Bradley, who is retired and spends most of his time overseas, said he now feels closure.

"It happened back in 1993, you know. You've got to move on with your life."

This was the third disciplinary case involving Dr. Bradley heard by the college in Ontario. In his first hearing in 1987, he was found guilty of failing to maintain the standard of practice in a case involving the death of a patient following a lung lesion operation that featured an "indefensible procedure."

Before his second hearing was held for the death of Mr. Carlo, Dr. Bradley fled the province and obtained a licence in Virginia to continue practicing there as a surgeon.

In 1993, Dr. Bradley set up a practice in the town of Stuart in the southern state.

According to a story in the The Toronto Star Tuesday, by 1996 four of his patients had died as a result of substandard care and another

• see **CHAMPION** on page 20

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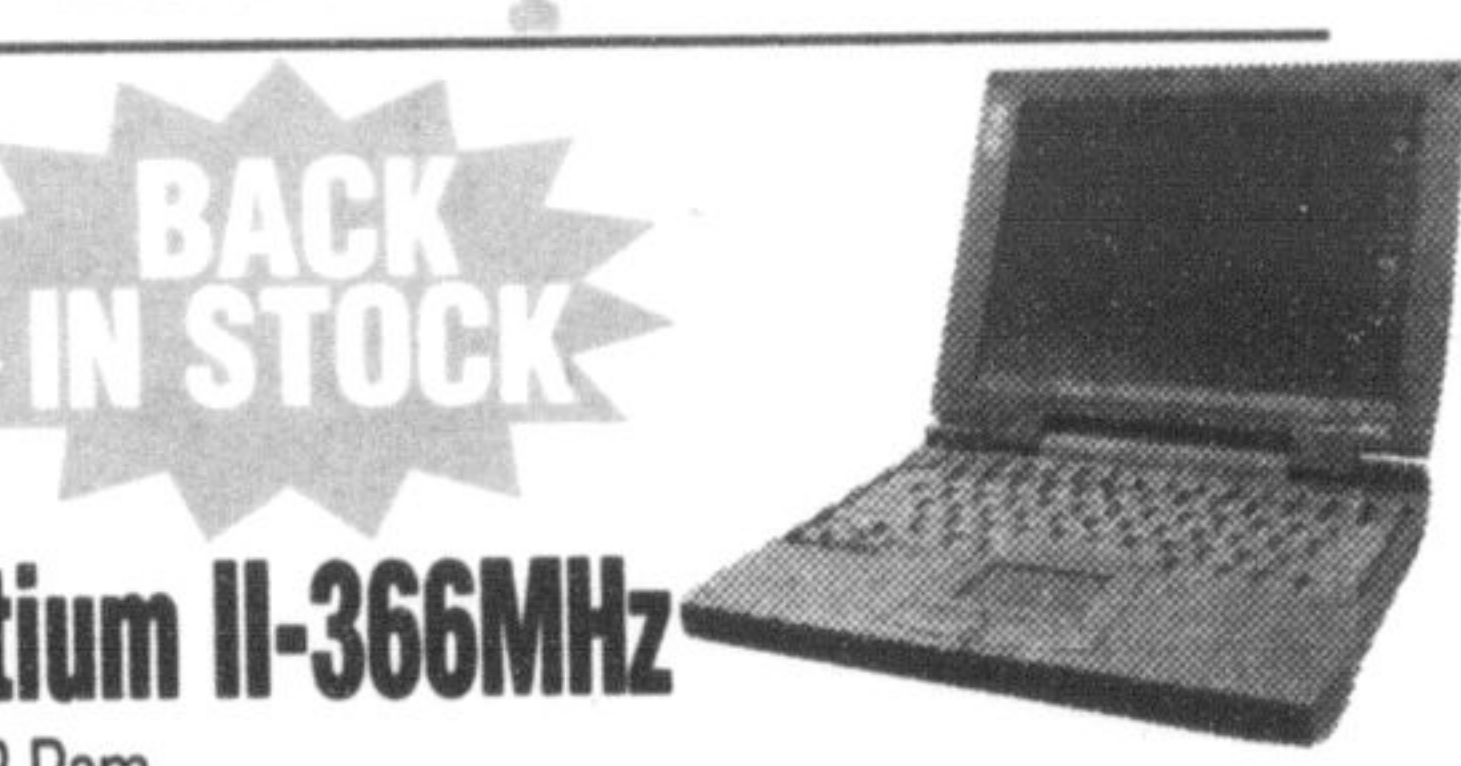
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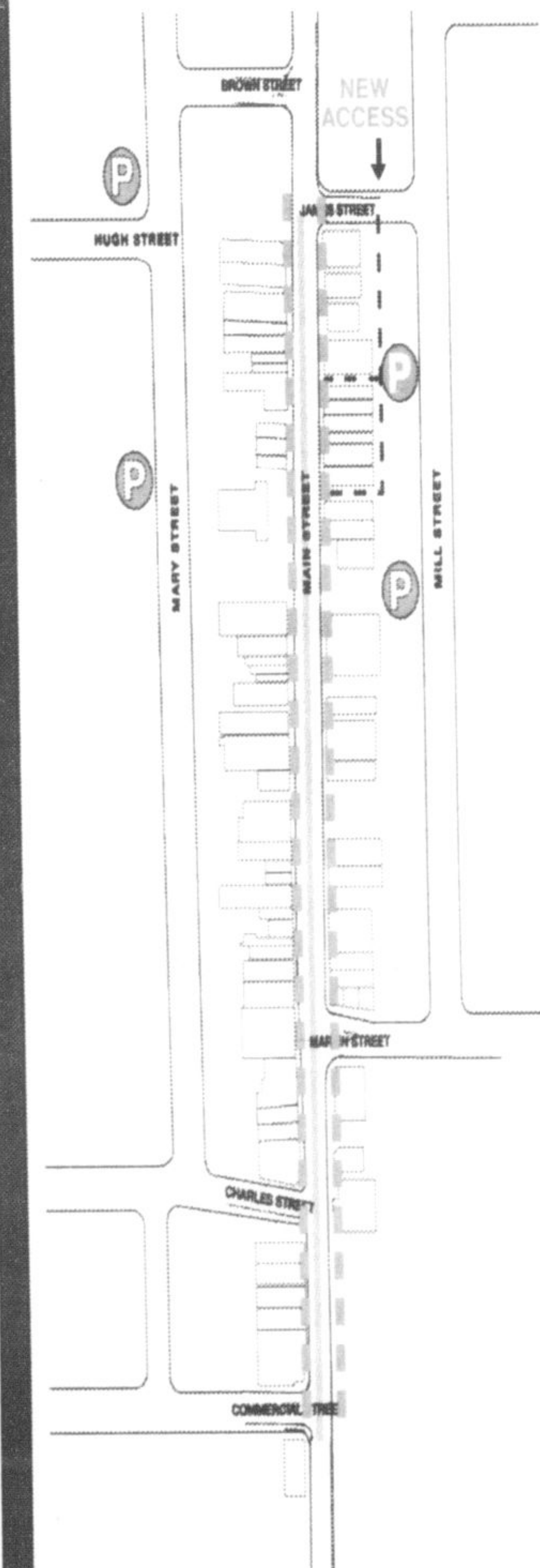
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Throughout the Main Street reconstruction project, the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Association (DBIA) will keep you informed about access, sales and promotion events— every Friday, page 5 of the Champion.



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