

First arena to be built for the 2003/04 season

By RICHARD VIVIAN

The Champion

The Town is moving forward with its arena plans two pads at a time.

Town council endorsed a two-pad business plan during a special meeting Tuesday.

Under the approved structure, one twin pad arena will be built in time for the 2003/04 winter season, along with the concession stand, lobby area and gymnastics centre. A second twin-pad is scheduled to be added to the facility in 2008/09.

Consideration was given to building the full four-pad arena for next year, but that wasn't the recommended option after Town staff reviewed both alternatives.

The two-pad arena carries a cost of \$13.8 million and uses 29 per cent of the Town's debt capacity. If the Town were to build a four-pad arena, the cost is estimated at \$19 million and it would use 43 per cent of the debt capacity.

"The key issue here is the debt capacity of the corporation. Around the Town, there are a variety of projects that may be impacted, may be delayed (if a four-pad facility were the preference)," explained Jennifer Reynolds, Milton director of community services.

The bulk of arena funding will be provided through development charges.

While council was generally supportive of the business plan, concerns were raised related to some of the figures used.

An estimation of potential sponsorship revenues in the business plan needs to be removed, suggested Councillor Wally

Hunter.

"We saw those in the business plan for the Leisure Centre and I've never seen a sponsorship," he told council.

Ms Reynolds responded, saying the Leisure Centre has an active banner sponsorship program.

Mr. Hunter further raised the issue of operating the arena as a stand-alone facility and not incorporate its business operations with the other Town facilities.

"We should run this like a private business," he said, suggesting user fees be used to recover construction costs as quickly as possible. "What if, one day, we want to sell this."

Councillor Ron Furik expressed further concern the Town's share of Mohawk Racetrack slots profits weren't being used for the arena.

"I'm always asked what we're doing with the slots money. Here's a perfectly good opportunity to say we've put that money here (arena)," he told council.

However, Town Treasurer Jim McQueen adamantly recommended against the use of slots profits for the arena.

Since it's possible to build the arena using development charges, accompanied by user fees, it's a wiser use of funds to put the slots profits in areas where those costs couldn't otherwise be recouped, he said.

"You don't get a user fee for roads, as you would with an arena," the treasurer said.

While included in the business plan, user fees for the facility haven't been specifically set at this time. Amounts used in the

business plan are related to what is currently charged for Town facilities on a break-even basis, added Ms Reynolds.

Specific user fees which will be used for the facility are to be the subject of a further

report to council, expected early next year.

Town council is scheduled to consider a variety of construction tender bids Monday. Once a tender has been accepted, construction of the facility will begin.

Got a hot scoop?
Call us at (905) 878-2341, ext. 234.



Montessori School of Milton

"...The child's own instincts and powers furnish the material and give the starting point for all education." (Hofstadter)

According to Dr. Maria Montessori, every child has a natural desire to learn and to develop his/her own unique personality. The most sensitive period for this learning is between the years of 2 to 6. At this time the mind of the child is the most absorbent. He/she shows sensitivity towards language (english and french), order, movement, refinement of senses, social graces.

The Montessori School of Milton provides the necessary tools and a prepared environment to facilitate the child's development at his/her own pace. The school offers half day, full day program options and playground facilities. Call us at 905-876-4001 for more information.

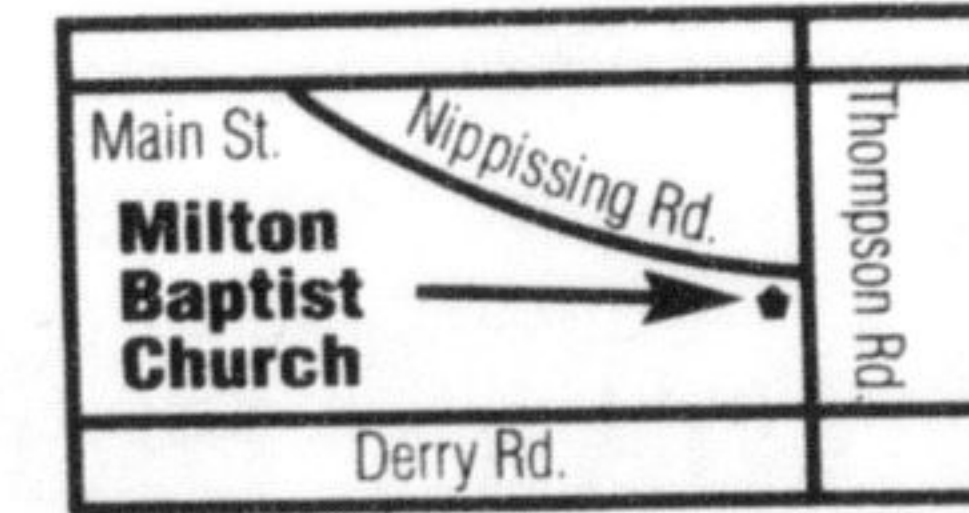
This is what our parents have to say about us:

"My daughter just loves the Montessori School of Milton. She receives great care, has fun and is always learning new and interesting things. I'd recommend the school to anyone looking for a well rounded and well grounded nursery program." N. McCoy.

"I see a lot of change in my son over these past seven weeks. His concentration has increased tremendously. We are very happy with his progress in all areas. It's truly amazing." L. Drametu

Montessori School of Milton

900 Nipissing Rd., Milton 905-876-4001



Give your child the Montessori advantage

Free Health Education Session

Presented by Halton Healthcare as part of their

"LIVING HEALTHY" SERIES

Osteoporosis Research: What's Hot?

Tuesday, November 5, 2002

6:30pm Displays & Refreshments

7:00pm Program

At the Milton District High School

396 Williams Ave., Milton

Key Speaker:

Dr. Aliya Khan, MD, Metabolic Bone Disease Specialist, Director - Oakville Bone Centre, and Associate Professor of Medicine - McMaster University.

Discussing new treatments in osteoporosis management, advances in osteoporosis diagnosis, and prevention

Osteoporosis is a disease characterized by low bone mass and deterioration of bone tissue. This leads to increased bone fragility and risk of fracture, particularly of the hip, spine and wrist. 1.4 million Canadians suffer from osteoporosis with one in four women over the age of 50 being affected and one in eight men. Osteoporosis is often called "the silent thief" because bone loss occurs without symptoms. Individuals may not know they have it until their bones are so weak that a strain, bump or fall causes vertebrae to collapse or a fracture to occur.

ASL Interpretative services available
Register by fax: 905-878-0498 or
cpopp@haltonhealthcare.on.ca by November 1.

Call 905-338-4379 to register and for more information

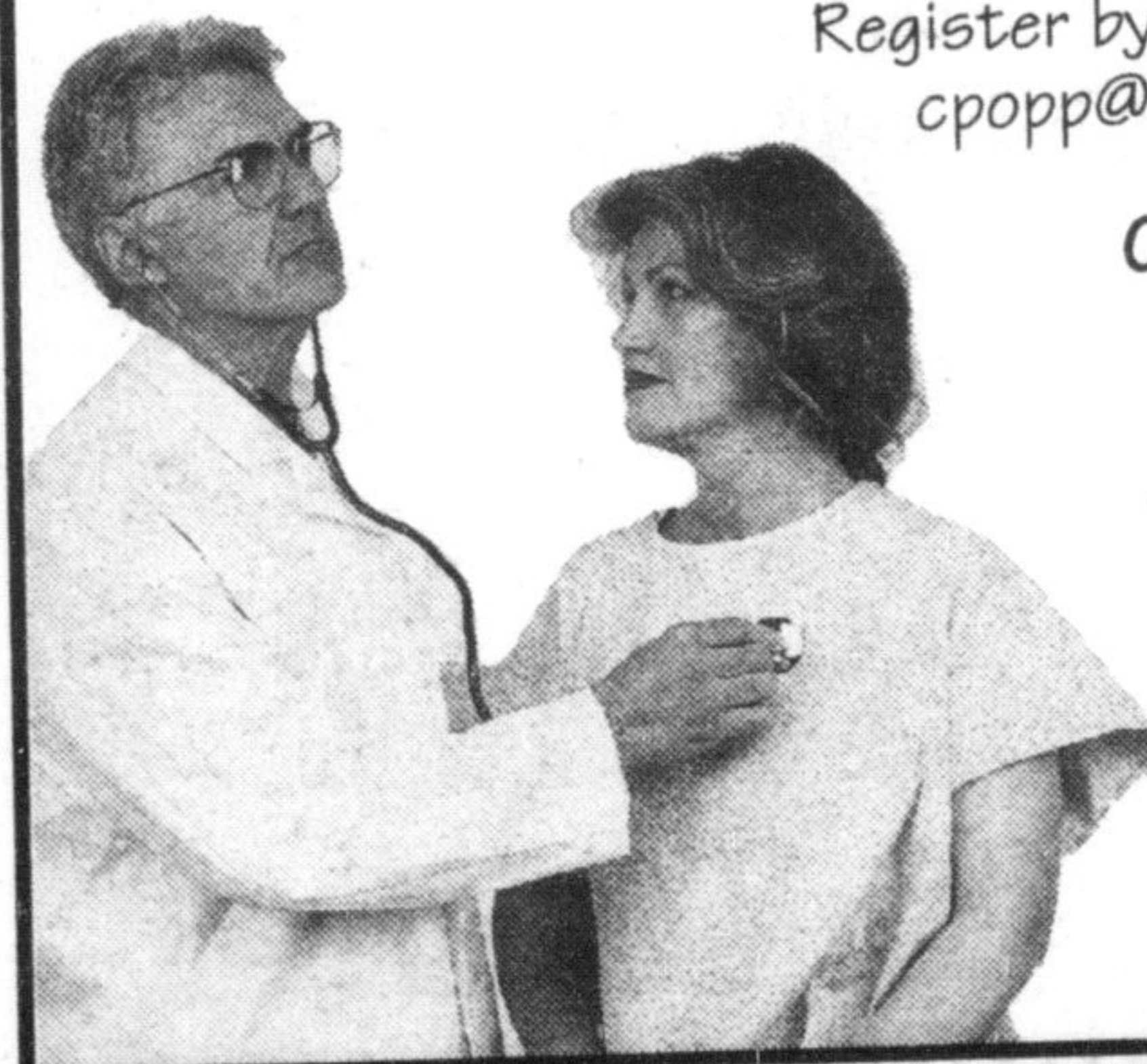
Presented by:



Halton Healthcare

Made possible through an educational grant from: Proctor and Gamble Pharmaceuticals

With Appreciation to: Milton District Hospital Foundation

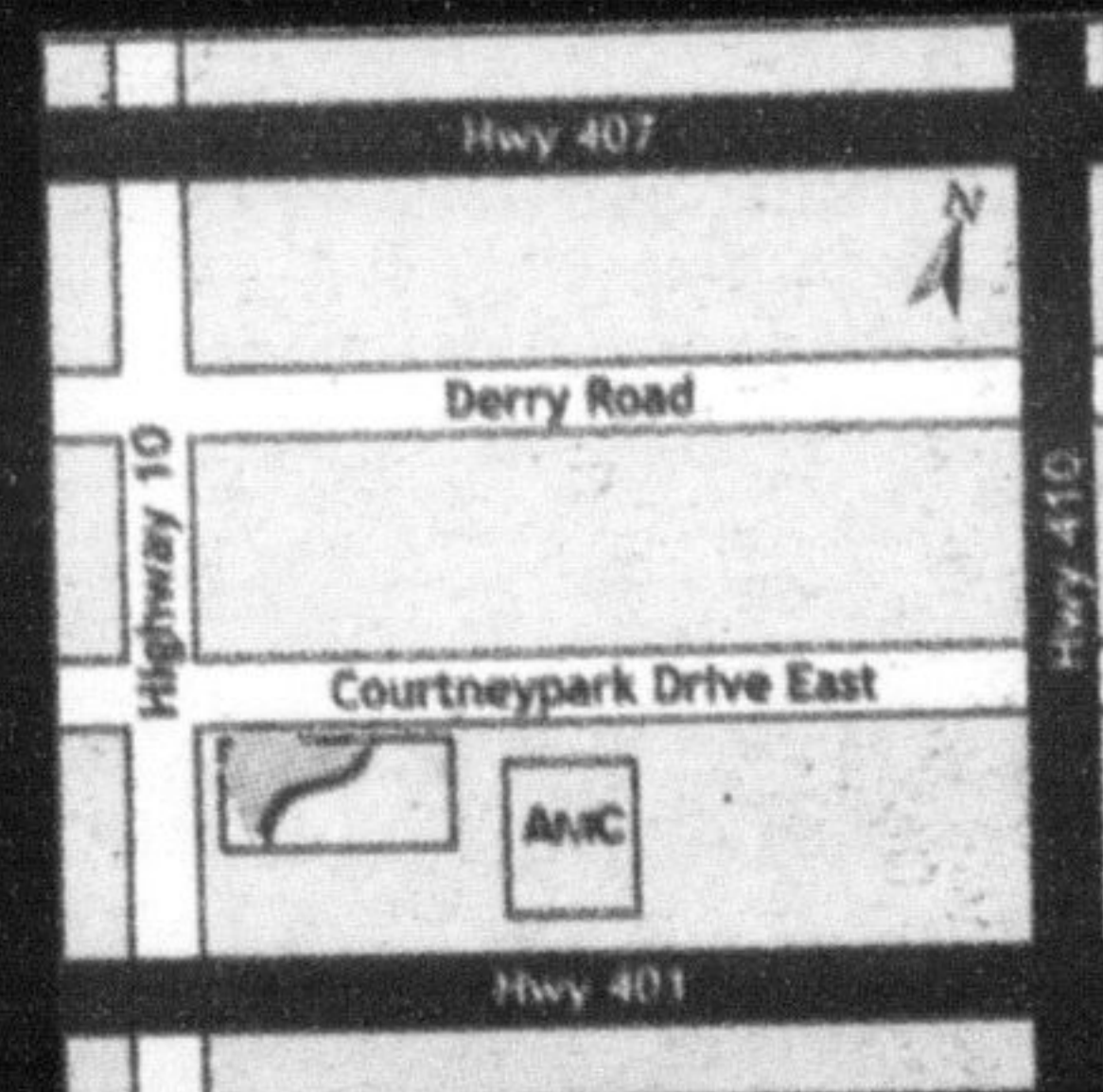


Putting edge

Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf

Give your PARTY the EDGE

Birthday, Team or Group Parties
Ask about our incredible party packages.



905-564-8808

www.puttingedge.com

Putting edge

\$2 off

One round of Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf

No cash value.

Expires November 30, 2002. Not valid with any other offer.