

Local doctor asks Milton council for its support of his efforts to start Family Health Network here

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**
The Champion

The town of Milton may soon be on the leading edge of healthcare services, with the development of the Family Health Network (FHN).

FHNs consist of a group of organized physicians and other healthcare providers who work collaboratively to provide medical services to its patient base.

Patients at the FHN would each have a regular doctor, but could be assisted by other doctors in the network during after hours or other times of need.

All medical files would be electronically shared between the network participants, said

Dr. Garnet Maley, who's heading up the local FHN effort.

"One of the misconceptions that we have are that family health networks are enclosed in one place. Essentially, what they are is a virtual group," he told town council recently.

"Incentives in this program allow us to be more focused on prevention and promotion of wellness. By spending



Dr. Garnet Maley

more time with our more intense patients, we can decrease complications due to chronic disease."

In addition to the doctor's local efforts, he's president of the Halton Medical Society and the Province's physicians' services committee.

Dr. Maley made his presentation to council in an effort to gain its support for a funding application to the Province. If successful, the application would see the FHN receive funding to hire a nurse practitioner.

"A nurse practitioner has a different skill set than a family physician and brings more to the game," Dr. Maley said.

Council threw its unanimous support behind

the effort.

"I can certainly support this," said Councillor Barry Lee.

Within six months, the necessary doctors are likely to have signed on to launch the FHN, Dr. Maley continued, saying he's received commitment from three of the five doctors needed.

"This is voluntary for both patients and physicians," the doctor added. "If we do develop a FHN, Milton will be recognized as being at the leading edge of primary care in Ontario."

Electronically wiring each doctor's office will likely take a couple months after launching the FHN.

Condo manager appears in court

A Milton man charged with misappropriating funds from two properties he managed will return to Ontario Court (provincial division) in Milton February 6 after making a brief appearance Thursday.

John Mallalieu was charged November 8 for allegedly taking \$250,000 from reserve funds of the Bronte Pine (235 Bronte St.) and West Sixteen Mile Creek (318 Laurier Ave.) condominiums over a 10-year period.

Mr. Mallalieu is charged with two counts of fraud over \$5,000 and two counts of theft over \$5,000.

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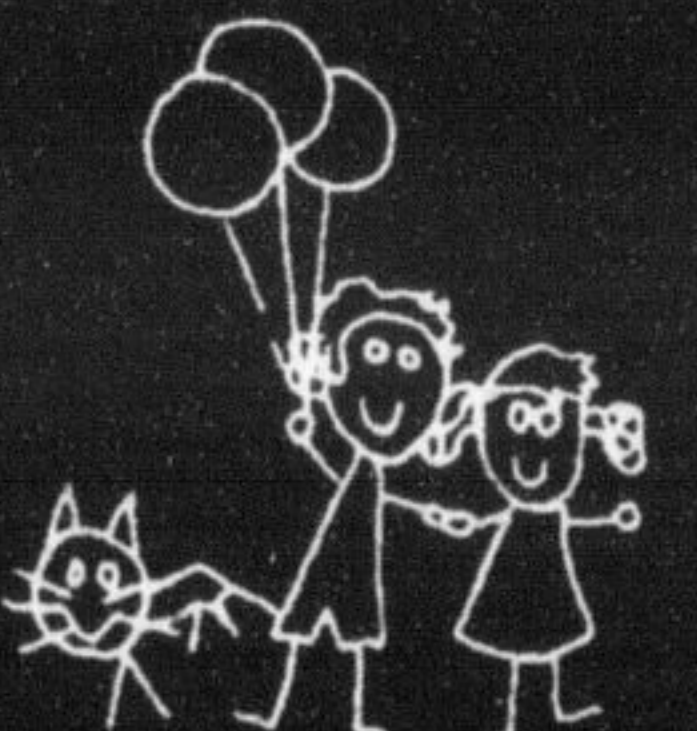
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