

Milton males have higher cases of certain cancers

Halton Region's health department is concerned that Milton males had higher than expected cases of pancreatic, leukemia and prostate cancers compared to the Ontario cases recorded between 1994 and 1998.

There were 20 cases of leukemia between 1994 and 1998, the largest cancer case increase of the three.

Terry Delmore, an epidemiologist with the public health department, authored a report looking at cancer incidents between 1984 and 1998. Using a complex formula, he compared regional cases with provincial cases to come up with patterns. For better accuracy, he blocked the years into three, five-year time periods.

Any two time periods that saw an

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TERRY DELMORE

increase or decrease in cancer cases were considered consistent and showed a pattern.

The three cancer cases among Milton males didn't show an increase during two time periods. But Mr. Delmore said the fact three various cancers jumped during the

same time period, and that the cases were significantly higher compared to the two previous periods, raised his eyebrows.

"I am concerned about the third time period but it's not an alarm, it's not a panic," he said.

In regards to the leukemia cases, Mr. Delmore said 12 of the 20 new cases are called chronic lymphocytic leukemia. He said it's not known what causes this kind of cancer. The Region will monitor the cases, Mr. Delmore said.

The good news is Milton females didn't show any significant signs of lower than expected or higher than expected cases of cancer, compared to Ontario, he said.

"It's a really good story for females."



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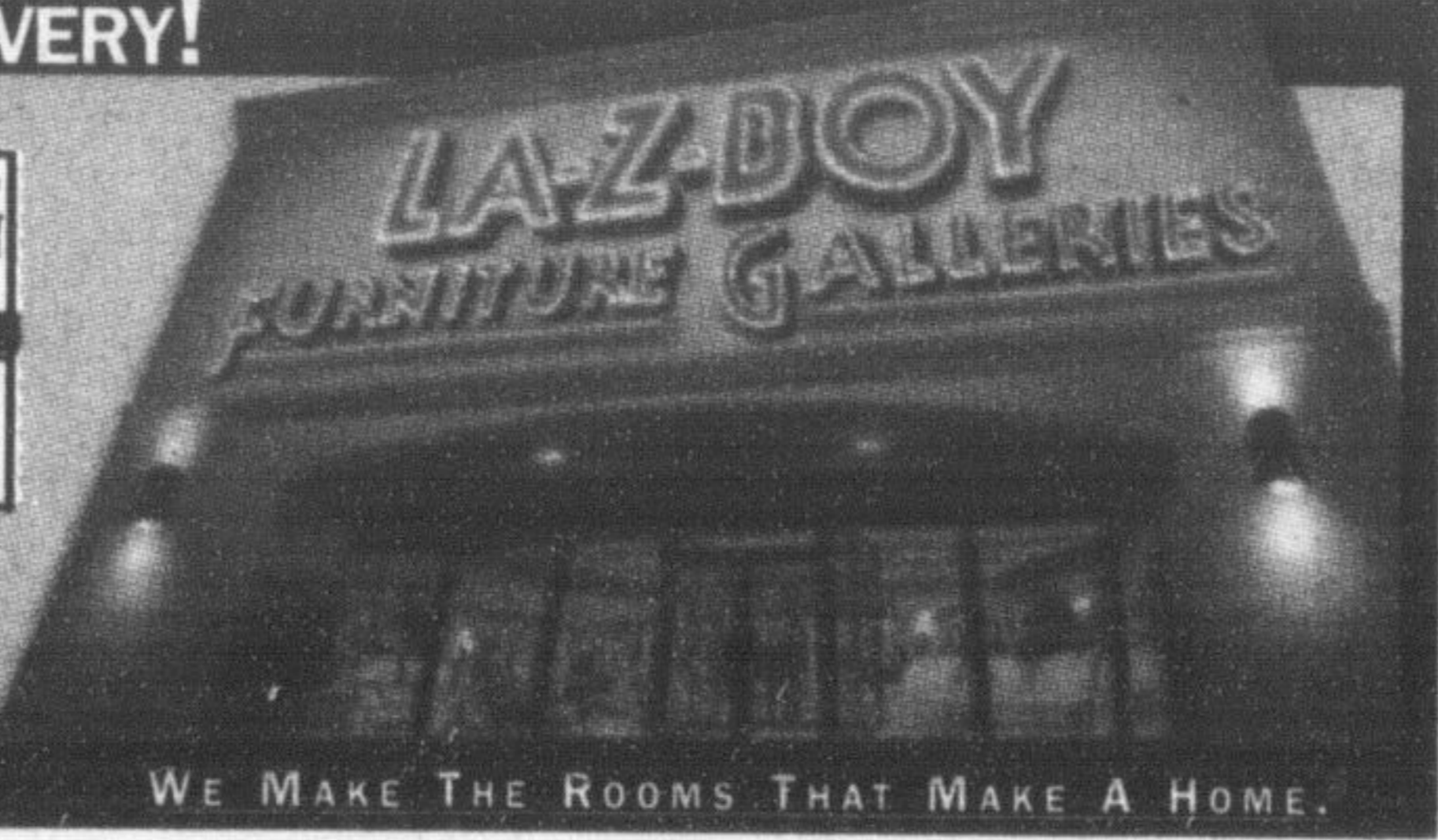
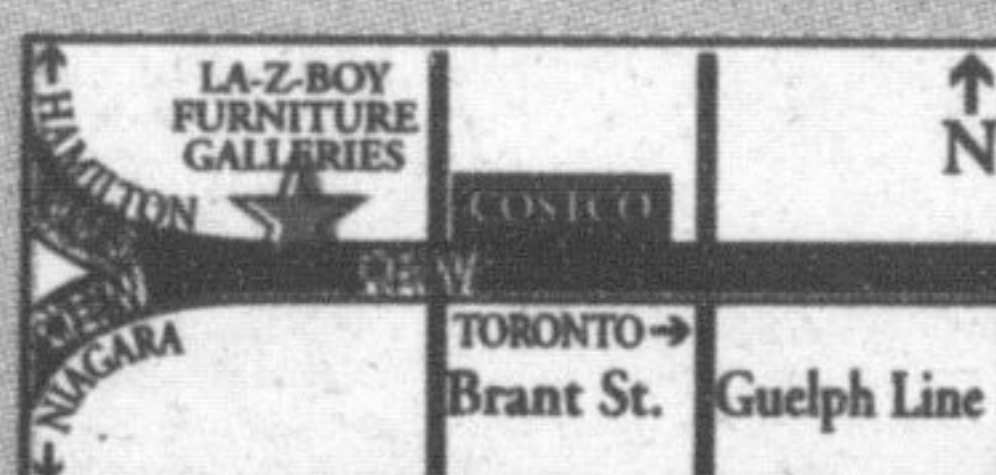
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