

measures should or need to be taken to

fight the illness.

Quarantined patients haven't shown SARS symptoms • from TWENTY on page 1 shown any symptoms of SARS. other staff are in constant communication Symptoms can show up 10 days after close with the Ministry of Health about what contact with an infected person.

Provincial health officials believe the virus is contracted by inhaling bodily flu-

of an infected person.

The quarantined residents are being asked to stay in their homes and avoid contact with the public. Dr. Nosal said the length of the quarantine — up to 10 days - varies in each case. For example, if it's

been five days since a person left a hospital in Toronto, identified as a hot spot for SARS, the quarantine would be five days.

The Region's health department is monitoring the patients twice a day by calling them and asking them for their temperature, and if they're showing any SARS symptoms.

If a patient shows no symptoms after the quarantine has expired, Dr. Nosal said he or she is free to come and go.

He said the public needs to stay informed about SARS by watching the news on TV, reading newspapers and consulting the Region's Web www.region.halton.on.ca. since the situation is "evolving." People can also call the Region at (905) 825-6060, ext. 7825.

The Province declared a health emergency last week and is urging people who may have come in contact with someone who's showing SARS symptoms, or have visited high-risk areas, to quarantine themselves and to contact the local health department to have their condition monitored. The Province is also encouraging people to wash their hands.

Hospitals throughout the GTA, including all those in Halton, are under extraordinary directives from the Ministry of Health to limit any possible SARS spread. The directives include measures from restricting visitors to mandating that hospital staff wear masks, gowns, goggles and gloves while caring for patients.

Milton District Hospital began restricting visitors late Thursday. Visitors can only gain access through the main entrance where they'll be screened. The emergency department remains open to patients.

Halton Regional Police officers are being armed with surgical masks as a precaution in case they have to visit hospitals, said spokesperson Sgt. Val Hay.

Worldwide, more than 1,600 people have been sickened and more than 50 people have died from contracting SARS. The number of SARS cases in Ontario currently stands at around 100, but the cases don't appear to be grim.

Jason Misner can be reached at jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Dr. Nosal stressed the patients haven't ids from, for example, the cough or sneeze 2004 Chrysler Pacifica Now in stock. Test drive it today.

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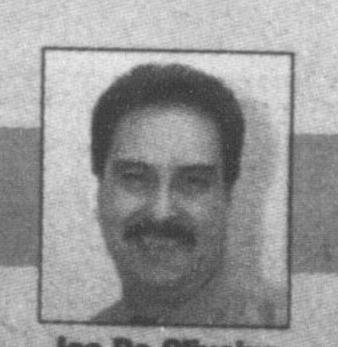
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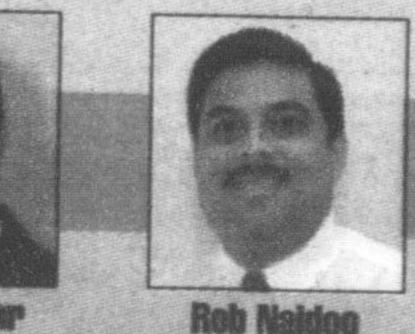


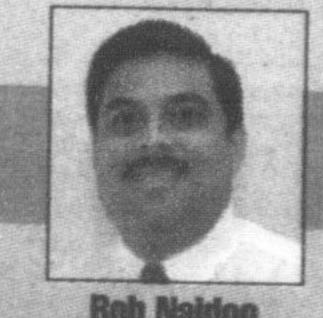








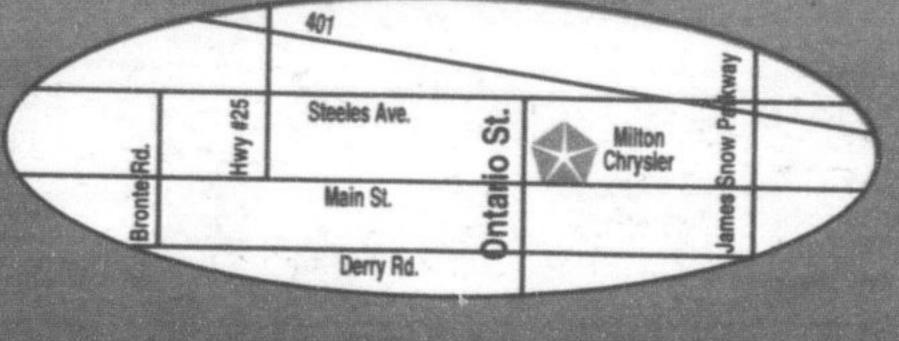




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Measures in effect

Milton District Hospital — along with hospitals throughout the GTA and Simcoe County - implemented the following precautionary measures late Thursday afternoon in the wake of the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS.

· Visiting is limited to parents of pediatric patients and those visiting critically ill or palliative patients.

· All hospital staff must wear masks. Anyone in the hospital's patient area must also wear goggles, gowns and gloves.

· All volunteer programs and patient transfers between hospitals are suspended.

· An isolation unit has been set up, and any staff who has worked at Scarborough Grace since March 16 are prohibited from working at other hospitals. Grace hospital was the first to treat SARS patients.

· Patients scheduled for elective surgeries are being assessed and depending on the situation, surgeries are being postponed until further notice.

• The cafeteria is closed to the public but is open to hospital staff.