

# New hotel to include conference centre and meeting rooms

• from HOLIDAY INN on page 1  
 building permit could be issued in the next few weeks.  
 He said representatives from the hotel chain have been in regular contact with the Town regarding the project and "they want to get it started sooner than later." He said a shovel could hit the ground some time this year before the first frost, for the start of the hotel's construction.  
 Mayor Gord Krantz said construction of the Holiday Inn hotel is exciting news.

He said he and other Town staff try to get out once a month to talk to various businesses to see what issues they feel need to be addressed. Hotel accommodation is always near the top, he said.  
 "We've been working for the past four or five years to get a hotel," Mr. Krantz said, noting he understands plans for the hotel include a conference centre and meeting rooms.  
 "Some of your bigger businesses use those conference rooms quite often."  
 He said a possible location near Hwy. 401

would capitalize on easy and quick access to and from Toronto's Pearson International Airport.  
 "(Another potential hotel) rounds out the community. It's just another piece of the puzzle we're trying to put together," Mr. Krantz said.  
 Meanwhile, the building permit activity report shows that residential applications in Milton nearly doubled this quarter versus last, generating a little more than \$1 million in revenue.  
 Even better news, said Mr. Drummond, is that last month 324 permits were issued, which

allows for homes to be constructed.  
 Those residences should be ready to be moved into in three or four months and will eventually generate important property taxes for the Town.  
 A majority of the homes currently being constructed are in two main areas, south and north of Derry Road, east of Thompson Road South.  
 "I don't see it (housing construction) slowing down," said Mr. Drummond.  
 Jason Misner can be reached at [jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

## Survey shows public getting the message

• from WEST NILE on page 1  
 transportation (like traffic gridlock and transit).  
 Survey results were given to the Region in June and a report documenting the findings was released at last week's regional administration and finance committee meeting.

Enviro-nics vice-president Jane Armstrong said in an interview she wasn't "too surprised" by the response given all of the media attention West Nile received particularly when the survey was done.

"There was a lot of publicity around the threat of West Nile in that exact time period," she said.

By the time the Enviro-nics survey started, Halton had already approved a \$800,000 battle plan to protect residents from contracting the potentially-fatal virus. The program includes larviciding — the dropping of pesticide pellets — into thousands of catch basins and hundreds of standing pools of water, the monitoring of the virus in birds, mosquitoes and humans, and public education.

The Region's health department was encouraged the public has taken the threat of West Nile seriously.

"I think if people have identified West Nile virus as a top priority in terms of health issues, I think it says they've listened to our reports, our media releases and paid due diligence to them," said Mary Anne Carson, manager of Halton's communicable disease program.

"They've gotten the message that West Nile can be a serious illness and they need to be proactive."

Oakville resident Michelle Dubiel was visiting Crawford Lake in Milton Thursday afternoon, enjoying the beautiful outdoors amid the sunshine. She said West Nile is certainly an important issue to her, but said addressing poverty is her number one issue.

"I think that (West Nile) should be one of the priorities but not the top priority," she said, noting she wears repellent with DEET and gets rid of standing water on her home property to safeguard against mosquito bites.

Ms Armstrong, from Enviro-nics, said the virus doesn't appear to have proven as problematic this year versus last year. She wonders if the top priority designation West Nile received in the spring survey would change if the same question was asked in September.

"(Responses) sometimes reflect the issues of the day."

Despite it being late in the summer season, Ms Carson said residents continue to call the Region to report dead birds and ask physicians West Nile questions.

"People are still attentive to West Nile," she said.

Jason Misner can be reached at [jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

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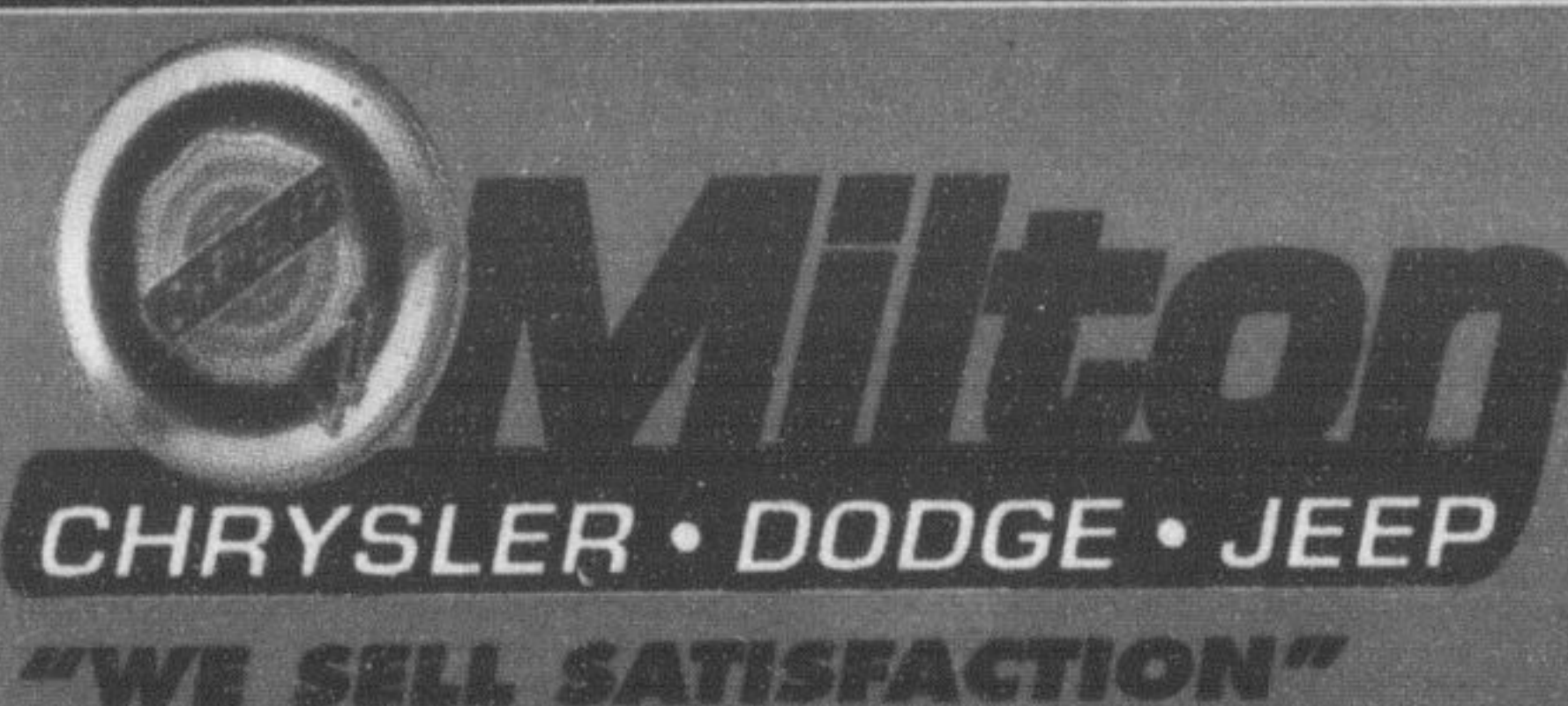
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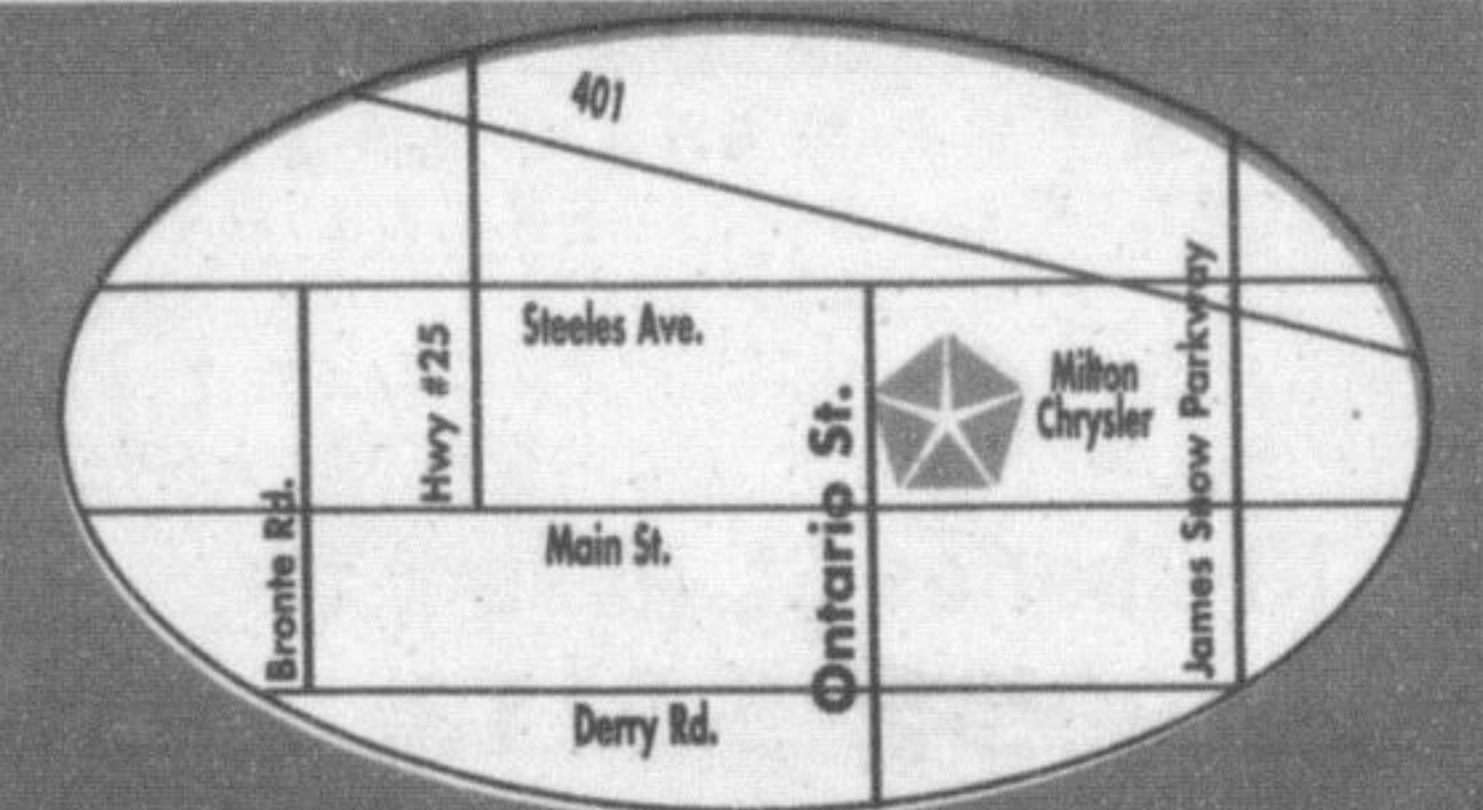


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