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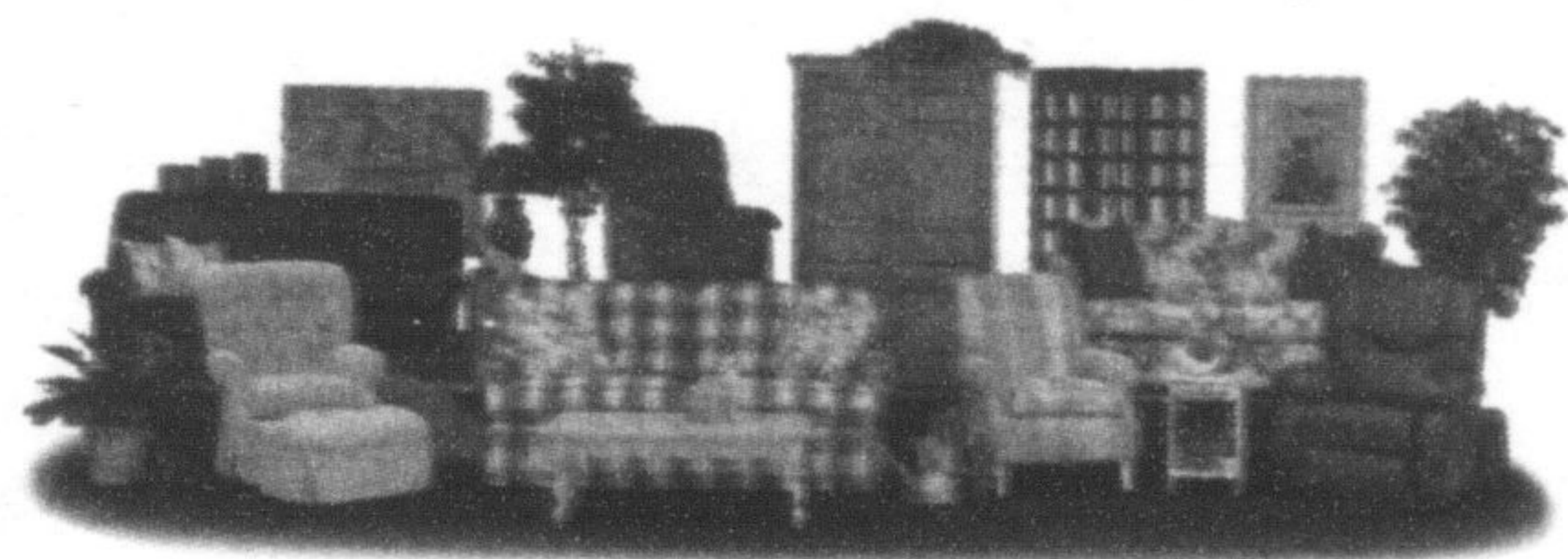
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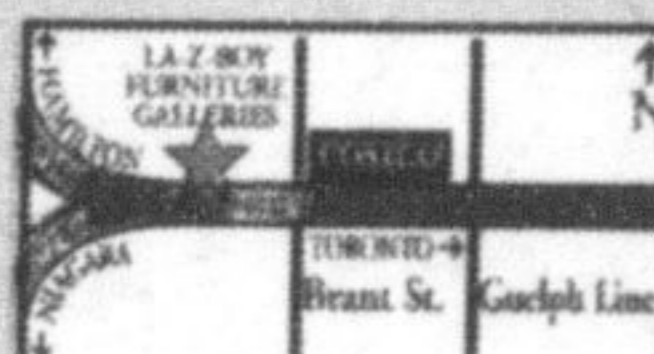
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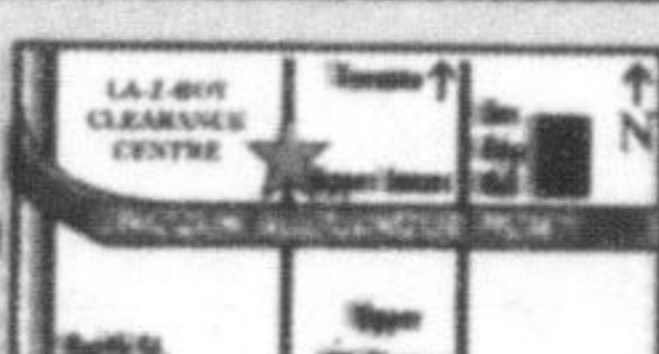
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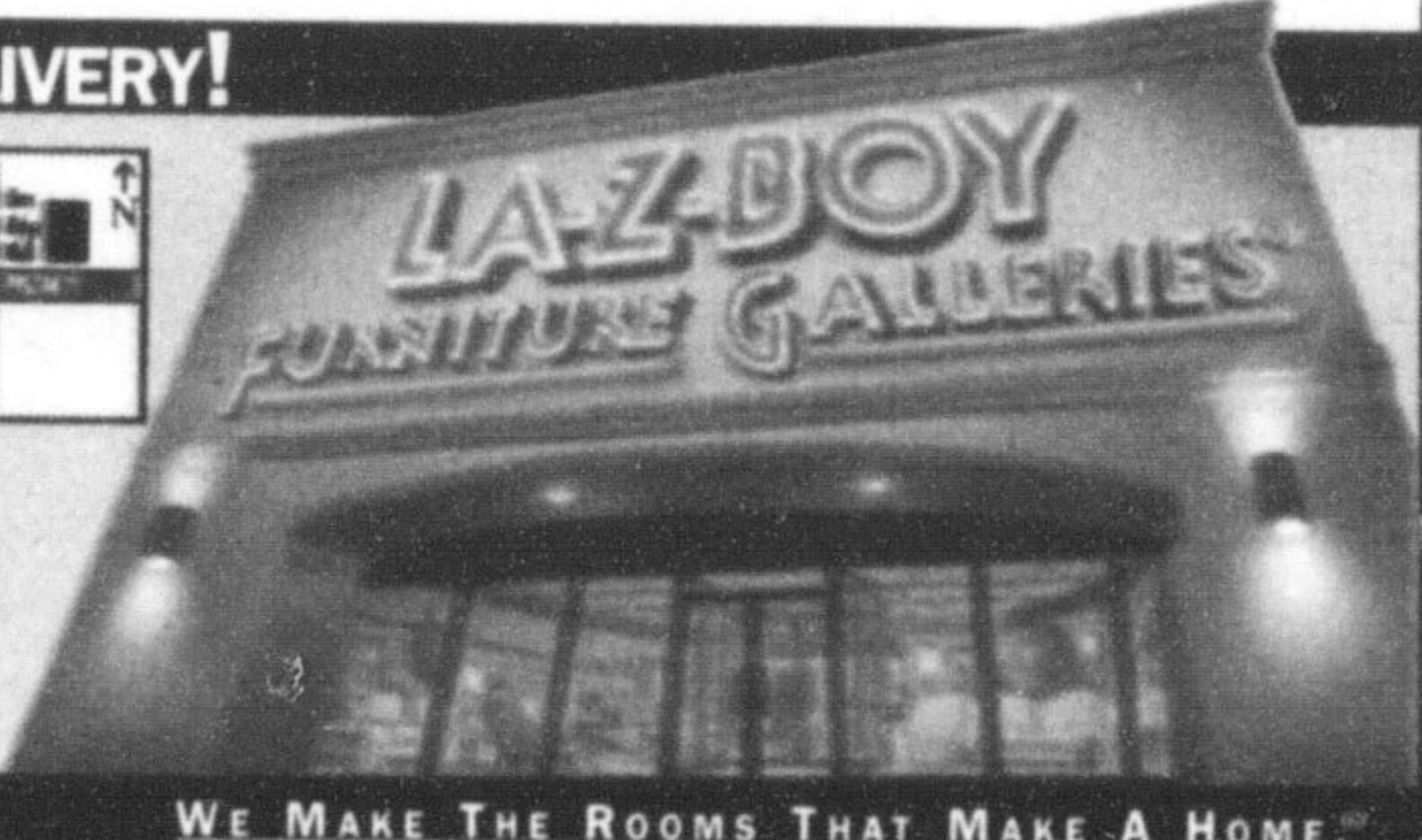


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Class sizes to shrink at Halton Catholic elementary schools

By KIM ARNOTT
Special to The Champion

Grade 3 students at Catholic elementary schools in Halton will enjoy smaller classes next September thanks to the first instalment of provincial money resulting from a Liberal election promise.

During last fall's provincial election, Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty promised that classes at kindergarten to grade 3 levels would be capped at 20 students.

School boards have been told that the smaller classes will be phased in over a four-year period, starting in September.

Using provincial funding of \$1.17 million, the Halton Catholic District School Board will hire at least 14 new teachers this fall.

Trustees recently agreed that most of those teachers should be used at the grade 3 level, where class sizes are the highest.

While some of the teachers will be used to actually create new, smaller classes, others will enter existing classrooms in part-time support positions to lower the student-to-teacher ratio closer to the desired 20:1.

By doing that, the board will be able to put the majority of the provincial money

toward staff costs rather than the costs of establishing new classrooms, superintendent Rick MacDonald told trustees.

"You have a choice to spend your money on portables and furniture, or on putting teachers in front of students," he noted.

Mr. MacDonald added that the Province hasn't yet provided additional funding to help boards purchase portables and furniture for new classes that need to be created to accommodate the proposed cap.

He also noted that the money is being made available specifically for the purpose of primary class size reduction, and can't be used for any other purpose.

"This is targeted money and must be fully used or returned to the ministry," he told trustees.

The board has tentatively allocated six new teachers to work in nine Oakville schools, five-and-a-half new teachers to work in nine Burlington schools and three new teachers to work in five schools in Milton, Georgetown and Acton.

Those allocations could change, depending on September's final enrolment numbers.

Fire station sites changed

The Milton Fire Department no longer plans to locate future fire stations in the downtown core or on First or Fourth lines.

The department recently presented its updated maps to the Town's community services standing committee, which outline where fire stations should be built to help service the growing population.

The new concept shows potential fire station 'zones' in the areas of James Snow Parkway and Regional Road 25, Bronte Street and Derry Road, Louis St. Laurent Avenue and Thompson Road and Main Street and James Snow Parkway.

A report from Fire Chief Harold Penson

said the fire stations were mapped relative to risk areas using a computer software called Fire Opt.

"The revised model provides for an implementation phasing plan that is more suited to the composite nature of the fire department, is more cost effective and has the ability to be initiated immediately upon approval," the report stated.

Local firefighters currently work out of stations on Steeles Avenue, Derry Road and Reid Sideroad. The two in-town stations will be relocated and two new stations will be built when the above mentioned plans go ahead.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

TTY: 905-878-1657

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www.milton.ca

REQUEST FOR BID

#04-075 – Annual Sidewalk Replacement

#04-151A – Reconstruction of 6th Line and Replacement of Bailey Bridge

#04-156 – Reconstruction of Lower Base Line (Trafalgar to 100m East of CPR Tracks)

#04-208 – Reconstruction of Twiss Road (Steeles to Derry)

Bids on forms supplied by the Town of Milton will be received by the Corporate Services Department, Purchasing on or before 11:00 a.m. local time, on:

04-075 - Wednesday, July 14, 2004

04-151A, 04-156, 04-208 - Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Bid documents may be obtained at the Town Hall, Corporate Services Department, Purchasing, 43 Brown Street, 2nd Floor, Milton, Ontario during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is a bid document fee of: \$28.53 (incl. GST) for bids without drawings, \$56.05 (incl. GST) for bids with drawings. Payment can be made with cash, cheque, Interac or Visa/Mastercard.

Any inquiries regarding these bids may be directed to Purchasing at (905) 875-5404. If you would prefer the bid document sent by courier, please complete the Request for Bid Document form on the Town's web site: www.milton.ca. Plan takers and current and upcoming bids are also posted on the web site.

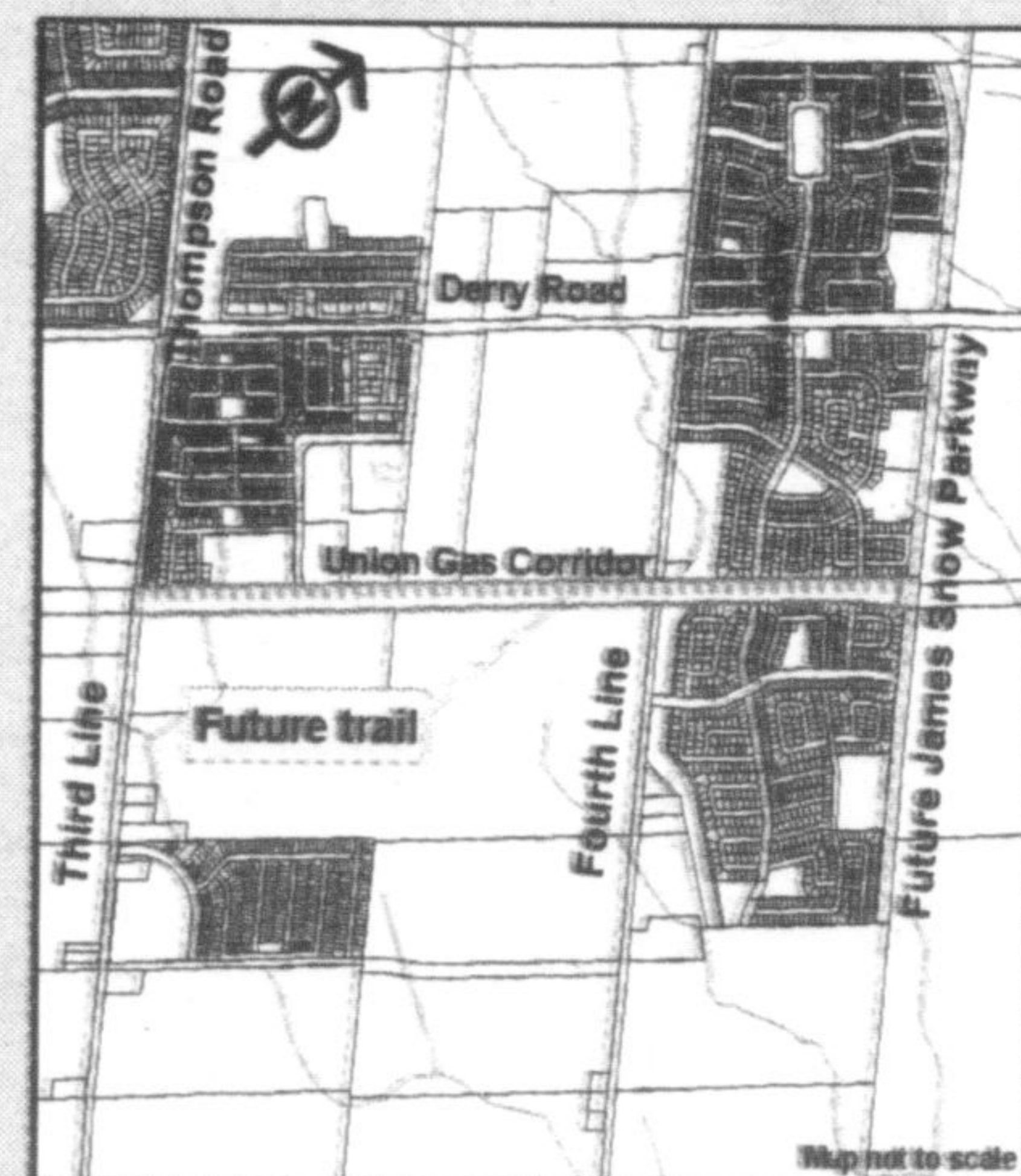
Proposed Multi-use Trail (Union Gas Corridor) Community Open House & Information Centre

The Community Services Department invites you to participate in a Community Open House & Information Centre for a proposed multi-use trail along a portion of the Union Gas Corridor, as shown on the map below. If you have ideas or suggestions for improving this trail, Town staff would like to hear from you.

Date: Thursday, July 8, 2004

Time: 6 – 9 p.m. (drop-in)
7 p.m. (presentation & discussion)

Location: Milton Sports Centre,
Banquet Room
605 Santa Maria Blvd.
(south entrance)



Join us at this session to learn more about the design and location of this trail. Staff will also discuss areas of safety concern and will ask for your input on making our trails more accessible and attractive within a cost-effective maintenance program.

If you can't attend this session, but would like to provide your comments, please contact Lisa VanderVliet at 905-878-7252, ext. 2168, send an e-mail to lisa.vandervliet@milton.ca or download a comment sheet at www.milton.ca