

Mental health agencies get big funding boost

More than \$1 million in Provincial funding has been announced for local mental health service agencies.

This news came forward last Friday, when a total of \$1.5 million for agencies throughout Halton was declared.

Locally, the Halton branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association is slated to receive \$820,074 and Hope Place Women's Treatment Centre, \$10,340.

The North Halton Mental Health Clinic is also eligible to receive more than \$250,000 in Provincial dollars.

Since the clinic is a program of the Halton Region Health Department, regional council will have to review the funding. That's expected to take place in September, which will then allow the clinic to access the money.

Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline said she was pleased with the announcement, given that there've been numerous discussions and correspondence issued over the years for increased funding to maximize the effectiveness of the clinic.

"I am pleased the minister has recognized the growing need in Halton to provide these critical services," she said.

"I look forward to continued dialogue with the Province. As per the direction of regional council, we advocate for full Provincial support to address the long standing shortfall in funding the clinic's base budget."

Funding will reduce wait times for service

The funding would assist the clinic in increasing its clinical and case management services and reduce service wait times for people living with mental illness in north Halton.

For 28 years, the North Halton Mental Health Clinic has been the key provider of specialized psychiatric assessment, treatment and consultation services for people 16 years of age and older living in north Halton.

There are no fees for the services, which are offered from three offices located in the downtown areas of Milton, Acton and Georgetown.

According to Health Canada, an estimated one in five people will suffer from some type of mental illness in their lifetime.

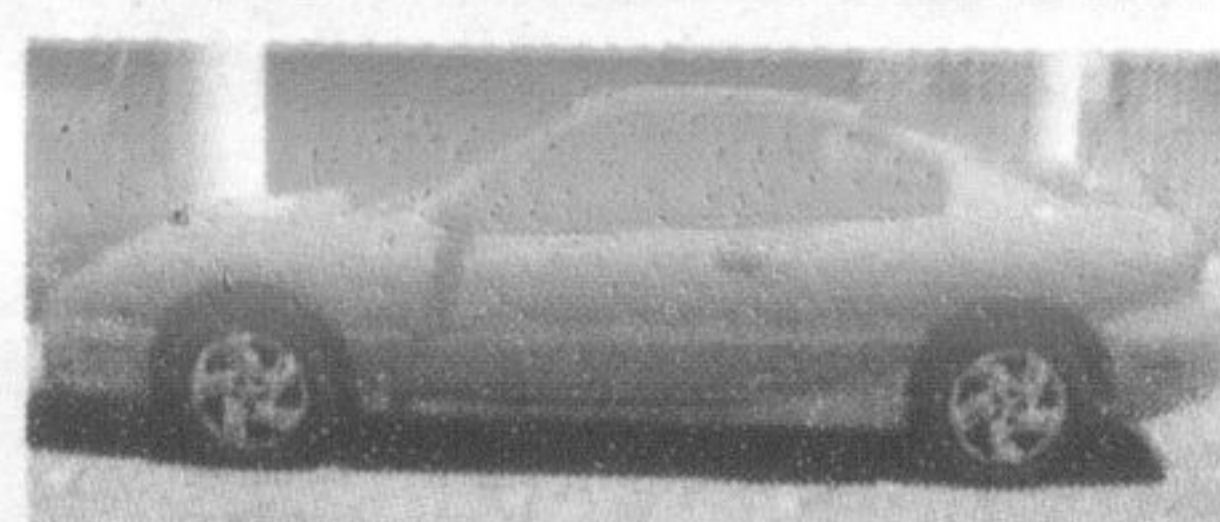
"Additional Provincial funding for local adult mental health services will increase residents' access to services in Halton," said Joyce See, director of community health services for the health department.

In total, more than \$58 million in new funding for community mental health, supportive housing and addiction treatment services was announced for agencies throughout Ontario.

For more information about the North Halton Mental Health Clinic, contact the Halton Region Health Department at (905) 825-6000 or visit the Web site at www.region.halton.on.ca/health.

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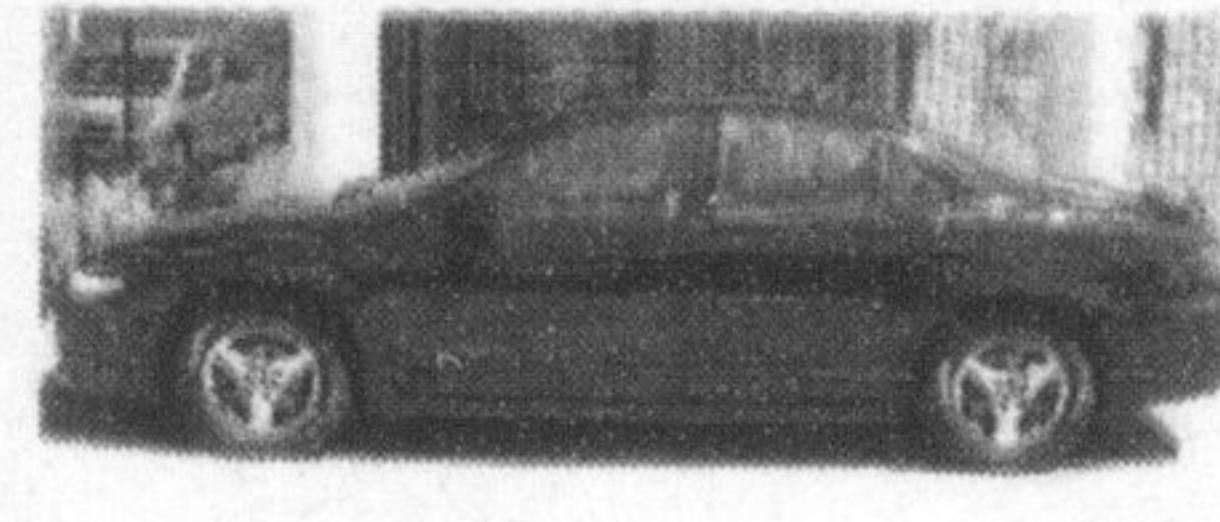
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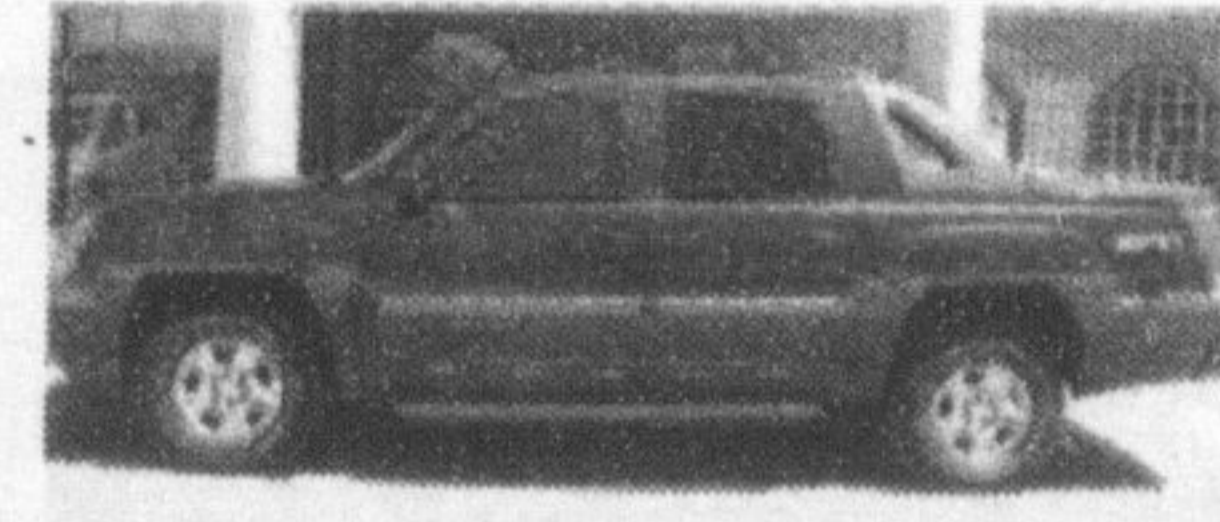
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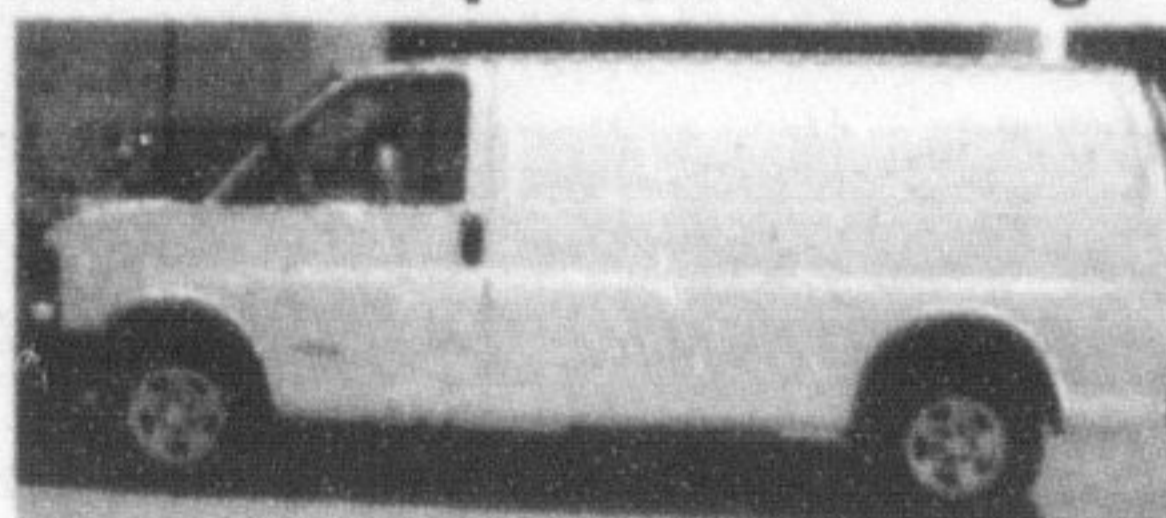
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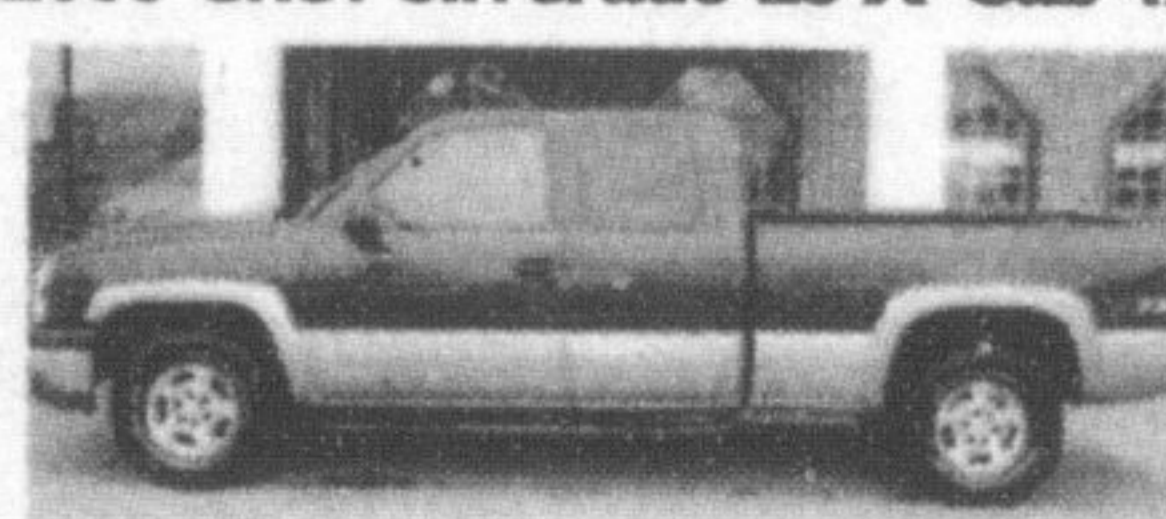
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