

Milton District Hospital to purchase CT scanner

Patients to get service faster and without travel

By the end of next year, Milton residents won't have to leave the community for an important diagnostic service.

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) announced last week it received approval from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (OMHLTC) to purchase and operate a CT (Computed Tomography) scanner at its Milton District Hospital (MDH) site.

Last year, 600 MDH in-patients and emergency patients were transferred to Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital for CT scans and other diagnostic services like MRIs.

The new CT scanner will assist in reducing waiting times at other local CT scanners.

"Access to this vital diagnostic service will enhance our ability to provide for the medical needs of our community in a manner consistent with the standard of care across the province," said HHS president and CEO John Oliver. "We thank the minister for his decision to support the provision of CT services for Milton."

HHS submitted an application to the OMHLTC in December, 2003 for a licence to operate a CT scanner at MDH. Based on current provincial CT scanning standards, MDH and its

community are currently under-served.

The estimated cost of the scanner is a total of \$3 million, which includes the scanner itself and the cost of renovations required at the hospital to house the unit.

It's expected to take about a year to complete the renovations and purchase and install the scanner.

The MDH Foundation will be launching a capital campaign to raise funds for the purchase, said Kim Mason, MDH Foundation president.

"As with past campaigns, I have every confidence that the community of Milton will once again rise to this challenge," she said.

Dr. Eric Engmann, a radiologist at MDH, said

CT is one of the best tools for studying the chest, brain and abdomen.

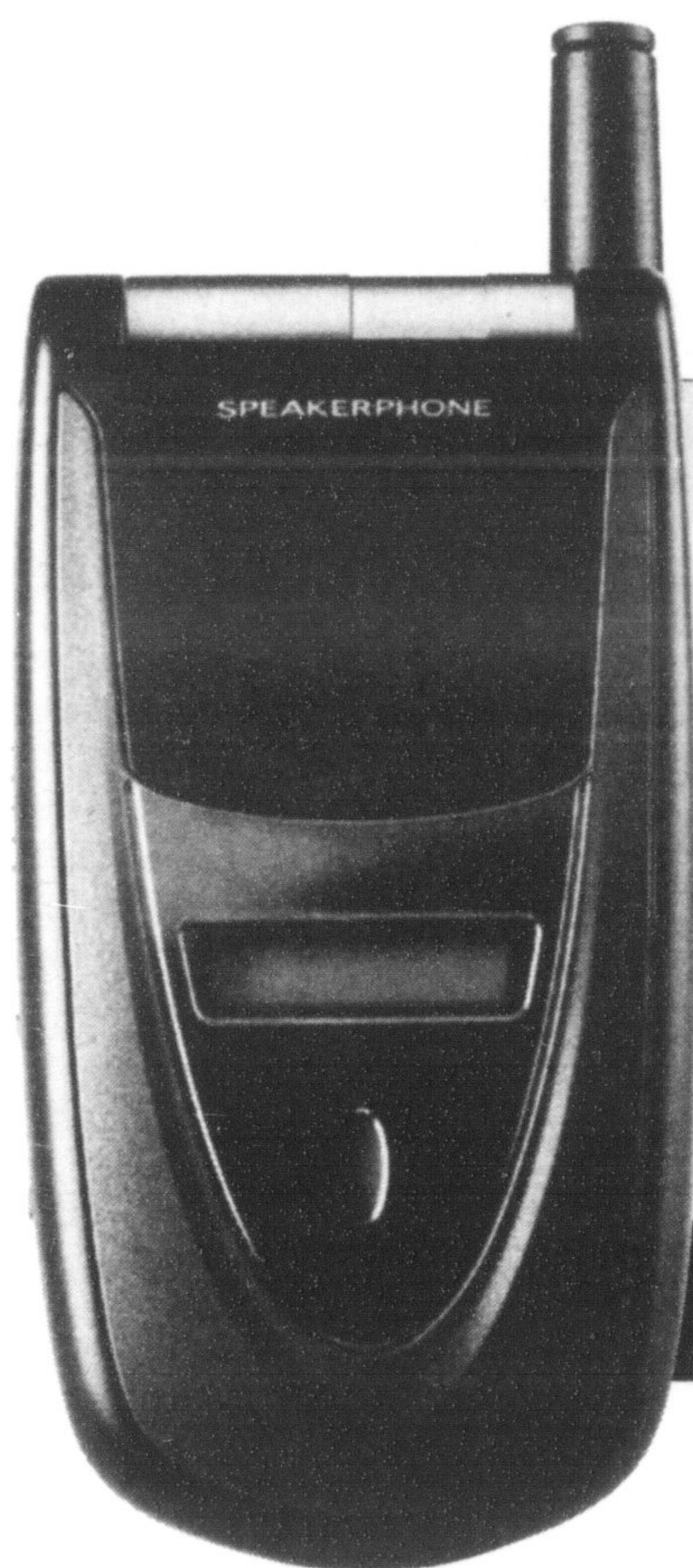
"By interpreting CT scans, we can more easily diagnose cancers, cardiovascular disease and traumas," he said.

Merla Johnstone, manager of the local diagnostic imaging department, said CT scanning makes it possible to get images from different angles around the body.

"Because CT scans are so specific, this technology will assist physicians in diagnosing and treating injuries and illnesses that are not always visible through general x-rays," Ms Johnstone said.



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