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Region grants \$100,000 for homeless projects

Regional council has approved almost \$100,000 in emergency funding for local projects that serve the homeless.

The money — which will go toward four Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) projects geared to homeless youth, families and individuals with serious mental illnesses — was given the go-ahead at a recent council meeting.

The regional dollars will be used for up to three months, until Halton receives its four-year SCPI funding from the fed-

eral government.

"The funds provided by Halton Region will maintain critical services for homeless youth, families and individuals with mental illnesses," said Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline.

"Our priority is to ensure our residents are taken care of, and streamlining the gap will secure these initiatives to support their health and wellness."

Recognizing that the transition of the new federal government may delay the allocation process, the Region wanted to

secure emergency funds to avoid any discontinuation of programs.

The federal government approved the money prior to the November election call. Staff on Parliament Hill has assured Halton as recently as last month that funds will be provided to SCPI programs regardless of the change in government.

The programs that benefit from these funds include Transitions for Youth, Halton Hills Community Support and Information and the Halton Multicultural Council.

Another meeting to be held May 25

• from RESIDENTS on page A2

he noted.

He also said that by 2031, it's anticipated that 150,000 employees will be added to Halton's workforce.

Those who missed out on last week's public meeting will be able to attend another one regarding the economic development study May 25. Location details will be released soon.

A third roundtable/breakfast workshop on the

topic will also be held May 4.

Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline emphasized that the study "will build on what makes Halton's economy strong, through the creation of policies and strategies that will sustain a prosperous and balanced economy."

For more information on the study visit www.halton.ca.

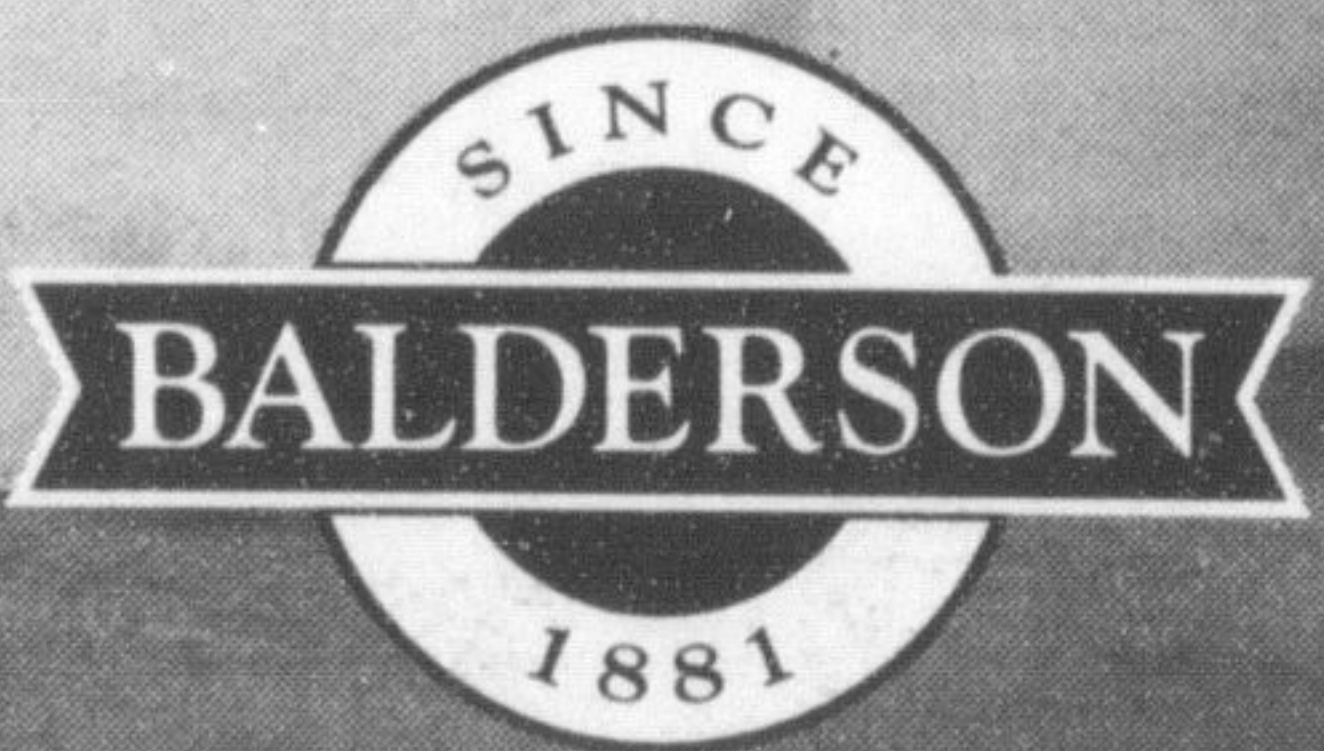
Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessy@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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 **Your United Way In Action**
The United Way of Milton

The Diversity Challenge:

Along with growth comes challenge. Challenge can be a good thing if seen as an opportunity to do good works in a more comprehensive way.

Take, for instance, the tremendous rate of residential growth in Milton and the number of Agencies and Organizations that will need to find a way to respond to that growth. The United Way of Milton takes that challenge very seriously and is already planning on how best to deliver the services and programs that some new residents may need.

There is a real opportunity to reach out to the residents in our new communities to educate them about what is their chosen community that will make a difference in their lives. How do we do this? By knowing what the demographics of our new community are, is a good start. How diverse is our new community? Is it mostly young families; are there needs of the elderly, the disabled, the youth? Do we have cultural and religious diversity within that mix that may need to access services differently? These are some of the questions that the United Way is presently pondering.

As United Way Board President, Marilyn Samuels, says, "It is our job to reach out in a friendly and supportive way. A new community means new energy and it is our goal to tap into that energy so the Town of Milton will continue to have the "community soul" it has become famous for."

So, if you are relatively new to Milton, we need your voice. We need your ideas, your input. Should we have a cultural diversity council advising our Board? We need your input and we need volunteers to help us carry out our mission.

Please pick up the phone and give us a call. That way we can continue fulfilling our tagline... "Neighbours Helping Neighbours".


The United Way of Milton - Neighbours Helping Neighbours

How can you help?

- If you work outside of Milton and donate by payroll deduction - please designate your donation "home" to The United Way of Milton.
- Make a direct donation • Attend a United Way of Milton Special Event

Tel: (905) 875-2550 Fax: (905) 875-2402
URL: www.milton.unitedway.ca E-mail: office@milton.unitedway.ca

SMOKING
what's the point?



Someday, you'll be offered a cigarette or be tempted to smoke. Before you start, think about it: every drag you take screws up your body.

Smoking can cause permanent damage to your body. Once a person starts, it becomes extremely tough to quit. And did we mention all that cash you'll be blowing in the process?

So, if you're tempted to start, ask yourself, "What's the point?"

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