Offloading delays at hospital concerning

Could affect Halton EMS's response times

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Halton EMS's track record of quick response times might be in jeopardy if a systemic health-care issue that just recently hit Halton isn't resolved.

Hospital offloading delays have affected Halton's surrounding areas — as well as communities across Canada — for several years, but weren't an issue here until this past December.

Offloading delays occur when a hospital's at capacity and can't provide a bed for a patient brought in by ambulance. Paramedics must therefore continue providing care to the patient at the hospital, usually in the emergency department hallway, preventing the ambulance from leaving and being used for another emergency.

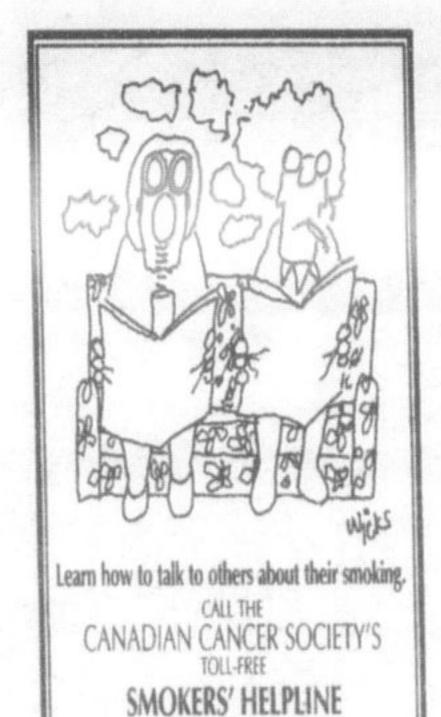
These delays and their impact on ambulance availability were discussed at Halton Region's health and social services committee recently, with a report submitted by staff and a presentation made by Greg Sage, manager of program development and quality improvement for Halton Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

"Our response times haven't been affected negatively thus far," Sage explained after the meeting. "The report's more to say the potential's

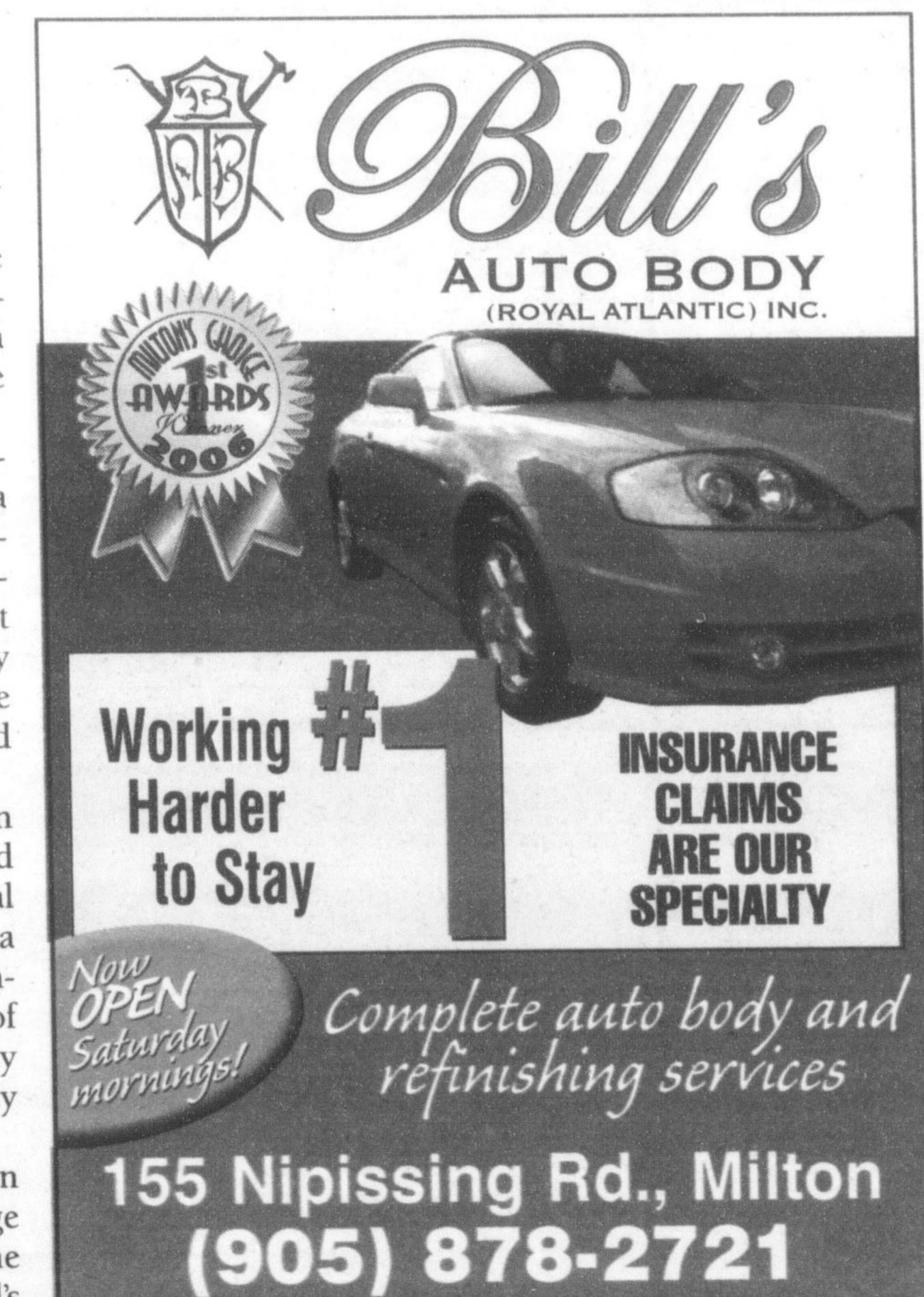
there."

A single offload delay can range anywhere from 30 minutes to four hours, Sage said, adding the average delay is

• see NO on page A14



1-877-513-5333





The Regional Municipality of Halton

REQUEST FOR TENDER

Bid documents for the services listed below, addressed to the Manager of Purchasing, 1151 BRONTE ROAD, OAKVILLE, ON L6M 3L1 will be received until 2:00 p.m. Oakville time on the specified closing date. Bid documents can be seen or obtained through the Purchasing Division of the Corporate Services Department, same address as above, telephone 905-825-6000, extension 7011. If long distance charges apply, dial toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866).

Documents will be available for pick up on and after Tuesday April 17, 2007. There is a non-refundable deposit of \$26.50 (includes GST). Bidders who request documents to be shipped from the Purchasing Department must include a courier account number (the documents will be shipped collect) and a handling fee of \$10.60 (includes GST) for this service.

Please be advised that this particular bid document is also available for purchase and download from the Region website at www.halton.ca/shop for a non-refundable deposit of \$10.60 (includes GST).

Bids will be opened in public at 2:15 p.m. on the closing date specified in the Nelson Room at the above address. Those submitting bids are invited to attend.

Under no circumstances will facsimile or late bids be accepted or considered.

Lowest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

Halton Region relies on this advertisement to provide public notice of this business opportunity and is not obligated to notify any potential bidders in any other manner.

T-047-07
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS LIGHT AND MEDIUM DUTY TRUCKS / VEHICLES
CLOSING DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 01, 2007

M. Scinocca, Acting Commissioner Corporate Services www.halton.ca/shop A. Mindenhall, CPPO, Manager of Purchasing Services

1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1 Tel: 905-825-6000 • Toll Free: 1-866-4HALTON • TTY: 905-827-9833 • www.halton.ca

