

'The Nerd' a laugh riot — from beginning to end

I don't think I've ever gotten so much exercise watching a performance by the Milton Players Theatre Group.

By the end of last Friday night's show, my abdominal muscles had gotten quite the workout from the constant laughter I was unable to suppress throughout 'The Nerd,' presented at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr.

Some audience members actually snorted, they were laughing so hard. (Or was that me?)

If you're a fan of awkward humour — think Napoleon Dynamite or The Office — this play is for you.

Fan favourite Gino Raimondo was back on the stage after a several-year hiatus, taking his rightful place once again in a lead role.

Words fail to describe just how funny Raimondo was as the nerd. From the occasional nose pick to his hunched stance to his

nasal voice, which continues to echo in my mind, Raimondo epitomized the eccentric Rick Steadman.

In a nutshell: The Nerd, written by Larry Shue, follows the plight of Willum Cubbert, played by a capable Dan Patch, whose life was saved in the Vietnam war by Steadman.

Cubbert has never met his hero, so he's thrilled when Steadman announces he's coming for a visit. The thrill doesn't last long, however, as Cubbert realizes how irritating Steadman is, with his complete lack of social graces and clingy tendencies.

For me, the second star of the show is Cubbert's friend Axel Hammond, played by newcomer Andrew Saunders. His memorable one-liners, smooth delivery and humorous facial expressions — which often say more than words — keep the pace moving quickly and ensure there's never a dull moment.

Cubbert's girlfriend is played by Mimma



with STEPHANIE HOUNSELL

Back stage

Were there some flubbed lines? Yes. The occasional missed entrance? Sure. But for me, none of that particularly mattered. I'll take passionate acting with a few missed lines any day over precise, exact delivery without any magic.

Surprise endings are always a treat, and 'The Nerd' didn't disappoint, with a finale that I think it's safe to assume caught everyone off-guard.

Remaining performances of The Nerd are tonight (Friday) and tomorrow.

For tonight's show, doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the show will start at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 each. Tomorrow's show is a dinner theatre performance. The bar will open at 6:30 p.m., dinner will be at 7 p.m. and the show will start at 8:15 p.m. Tickets cost \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door.

Tickets are available on-line at www.miltonplayers.com or by calling (905) 875-0629 or visiting Boutique 188 at 188 Main St. E.

DeCarli, while Doug Goodhue and Joan Patch play a couple that doesn't quite know what to make of Steadman. They provide a foil for plenty of hilarity as they try to come to terms with this strange man.

And nine-year-old Liam Mottram truly knows how to be a brat — in his role, that is, as the couple's son.

Directing the show is Brian Cranford, while mother Susan Cranford is the stage manager and Trina Orrell is the producer.



The Regional Municipality of Halton

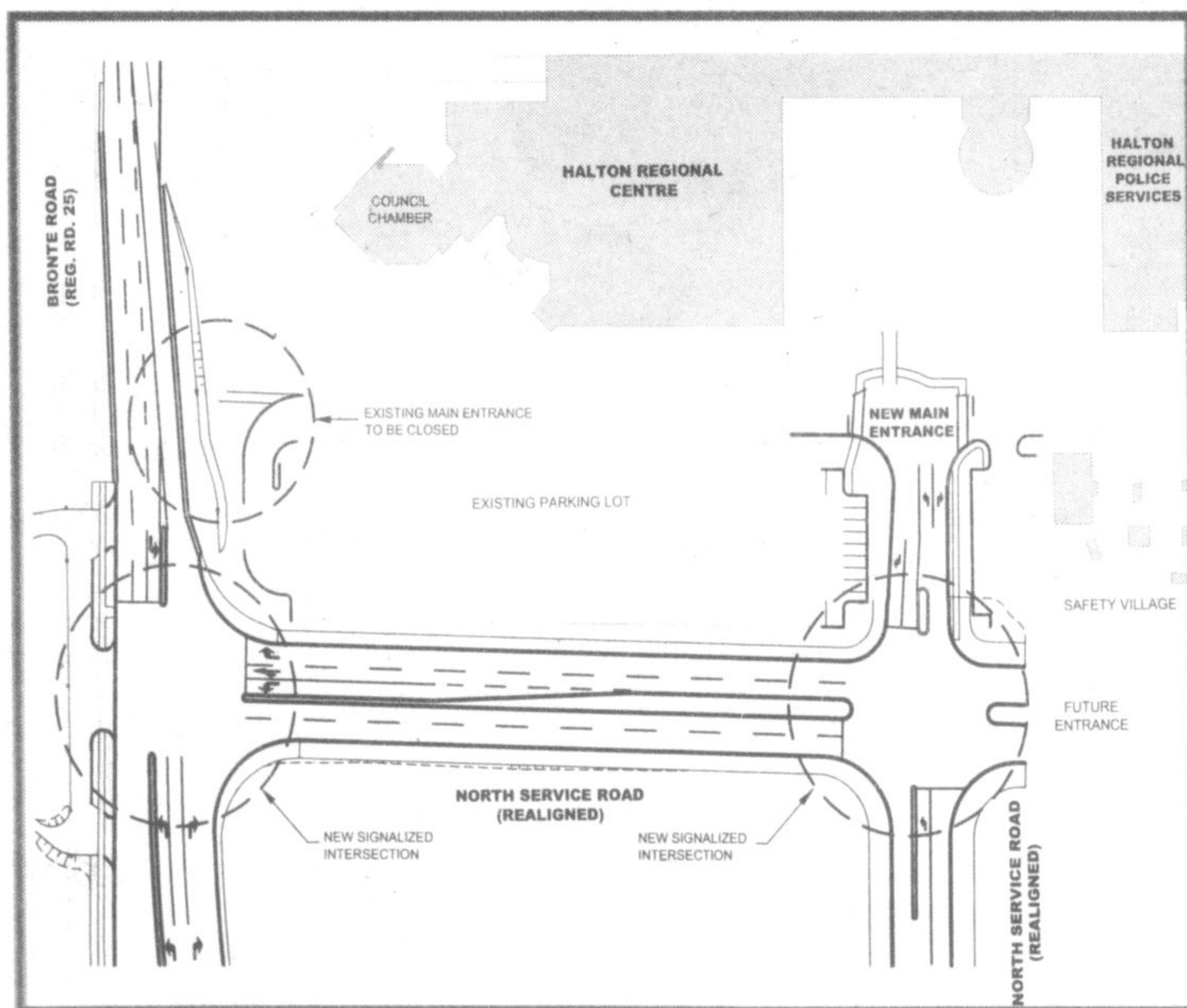
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New entrance to Halton Regional Centre opens May 16

The new south entrance from North Service Road to the Halton Regional Centre (HRC) at 1151 Bronte Road in Oakville will open on Friday, May 16.

The HRC houses main offices for Halton Region and the Halton Regional Police Service. All visitors to the HRC will use the new entrance to access visitor parking, the Government Services Centre, the Halton Centre for Child Care, and the police reporting centre.

The existing south entrance to the HRC on Bronte Road will be closed as of May 16. Staff, Oakville Transit, the fire department and deliveries to the HRC receiving dock can still access the existing north entrance.



The new entrance is part of the work being done by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) on the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) and the North Service Road south of the HRC.

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