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*O.A.C. See dealer for details.

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2007 FORD FOCUS SES 4-DR SEDAN

2.0L 4 cyl FI DOHC, auto, air, p. windows/locks/mirrors, cruise/tilt, fog lamps, alloy sport wheels. Former rental. Great mileage & very clean car 47,662 km. Balance of Ford 3 Yr./60,000km total warranty plus Roadside Assistance & 5 Yr./100,000km powertrain warranty. Stk. G257457

\$11,888



2008 NISSAN FRONTIER SE CREW CAB 4X4

Former rental. 4.0L V6, auto, air, AM/FM, p. windows/locks/mirrors, cruise, tilt, alloy wheels, tinted windows, bed liner, tow package. 'Crew Cab' model And it is a 4x4 'SE' model. Very low, low mileage for the year!! Balance of Nissan warranty. Stk. G411106

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2.5L 5 cyl., manual, air, AM/FM/CD, p. windows/locks/mirrors, cruise, tilt, bucket seats, keyless entry, side impact airbags, alloy wheels. 'Wolfsburg' edition. Fully loaded including leather & power moonroof. Economical 5 speed transmission. Balance of Volkswagen 4 Yr./80,000km total warranty & 5 Yr./100,000km powertrain warranty. Stk. G071134.

\$21,988



2008 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5 SPORT 5.7L

5.7L V8, auto, air, AM/FM/CD changer, cruise, tilt, ABS, traction ctrl., side impact airbags, bed liner, tow pkg., rear sliding window. Purchased from leasing company. It is the 'Sport' model with chrome bumpers. Even has power windows & locks!! Balance of Toyota 3 Yr./60,000km total warranty plus Roadside Assistance & 5 Yr./100,000km powertrain warranty. Stk. G002567.

\$21,988



2006 SCION XB

1.5L 4 cyl, auto, air, AM/FM/CD, p. windows/locks/mirrors, tilt, ABS, traction ctrl. Great mileage for the year 52,081 km. Balance of Scion 3 Yr./60,000km total warranty plus Roadside Assistance & 5 Yr./100,000km powertrain warranty. Stk. G114828

\$18,988



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Funding aimed at alleviating patient offloading delays

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A one-time infusion of cash may help deal with Halton's hospital offloading delays, but Region staff and councillors aren't holding their breath.

"It certainly won't hurt and it may be of some help," said Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal at the Region's health and social services committee meeting Tuesday.

The Region is poised to receive a grant from the provincial government for up to \$125,000 that will go toward nurses who will specifically receive ambulance patients in hospital emergency departments (ED), states a staff report.

They'll provide patient care and supervision of five or six patients at a time until the hospital can take over, allowing EMS resources to return to the community.

The funding is for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

"Ideally, this would eliminate the majority of offload issues during periods of peak demand," the report states.

Offloading delays occur when a hospital is 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 ED hallway, preventing the ambulance from leaving and being used for another emergency.

They're sometimes there for up to 13 hours.

Last year in Halton, there were several occasions when no ambulances were available to respond to local calls.

The amount of time lost to offloading delays each day is equivalent to two ambulances being out of service for an entire 12-hour shift, Nosal said.

That added up to about \$1.4 million in lost vehicle staffing last year, Nosal told the councillors.

Halton is one of 14 EMS services in Ontario receiving the funding.

Regional Chair Gary Carr said it seems the Province has given this relatively small amount simply to say it's done something.

"We need to say, 'Thank you minister for that, but this in no way is going to help with the problem.'"

The money will fund one full-time equivalent nurse — but isn't enough for two — and council must decide to which of Halton's four hospital EDs the nurse will go, Nosal told the *Champion*.

He said the worst off-loading issues are at Burlington's Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital.

There's also the question of what to do if that one nurse gets inundated with patients, he said.

• see FUNDS on page A20