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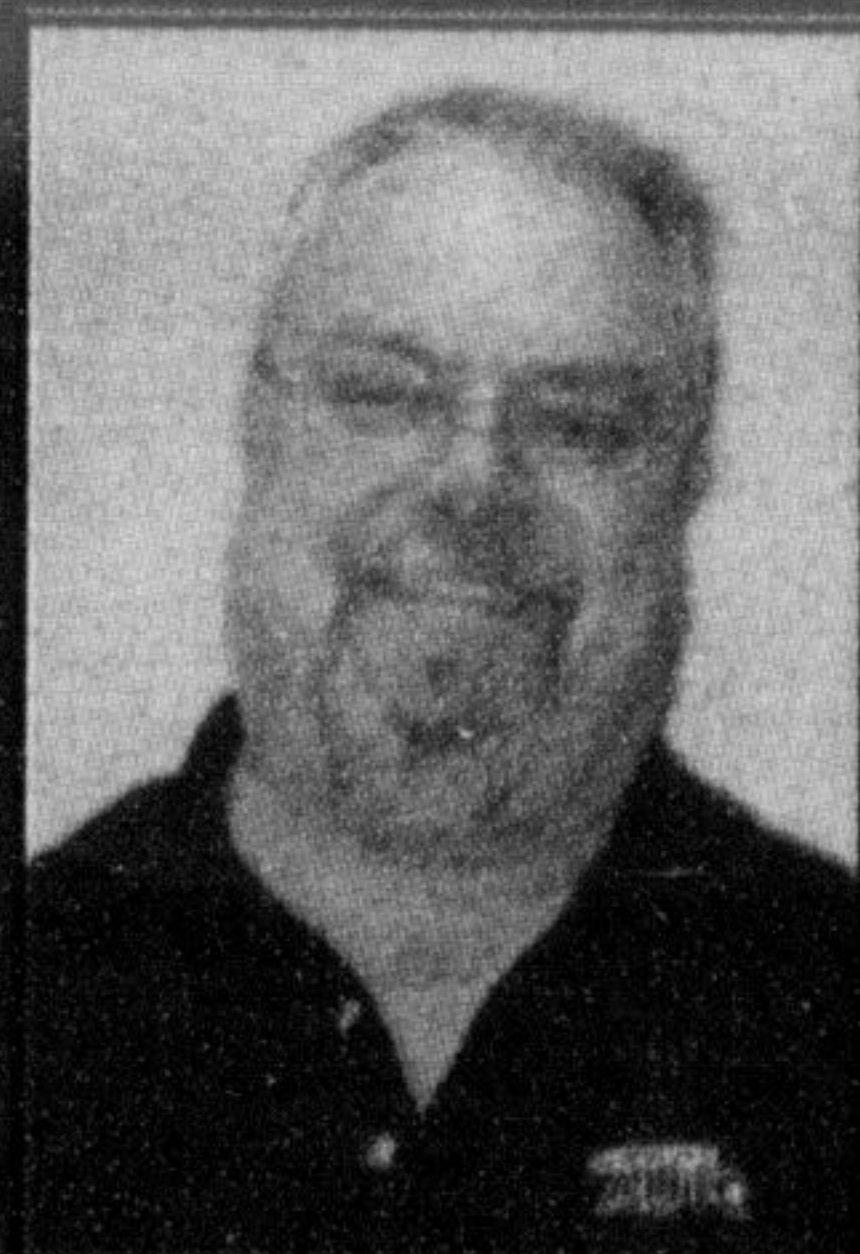


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Hospital group handed \$25,000

By Tim Foran
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Milton council unanimously decided Monday to give \$25,000 to a local group committed to getting the expansion of Milton District Hospital onto the provincial government's 10-year infrastructure plan, expected to be finalized this fall.

The money is being directed to Friends of Milton Hospital to help kickstart the community group's campaign, which it will launch at noon May 5 outside the hospital.

The group is headed by former Halton regional chair Peter Pomeroy, who described himself as "elated" after council approved the funding.

"The council support is a critical link for sure," Pomeroy said.

Pomeroy said the money would be used for communications materials such as buttons that the group intends to distribute to raise awareness among the community for the need of a hospital expansion.

The group's goals are also to develop a business case showing why Milton's need for a hospital expansion is greater than requests coming from other Ontario municipalities.

Halton Healthcare Services Corporation (HHS), which operates Milton's hospital, submitted a business case and master plan to expand Milton's hospital to Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long Term Care last September. It's still awaiting approval from the ministry to go forward to the next stage of planning, during which the corporation can estimate how much the expansion would cost.

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