

Daily hospital parking to double starting next week

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By Tim Foran
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The daily parking rates at Milton District and Georgetown hospitals will double starting next week, but the change will mean a slight benefit for visitors parking less than an hour at the facilities.

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS), the corporation that oversees the two hospitals, plans to adjust its parking fees to \$2.75 per half hour, with a \$14 daily maximum, from the current \$7 flat rate charge. HHS will also sell \$18 day passes, and deeply discounted \$40 weekly passes and \$65 monthly passes that give holders in-and-out privileges and which can be used interchangeably at all three hospital sites.

The new costs are in line with what the corporation is already charging at its Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital site and is similar to what's charged at other GTA-area hospitals.

However, the hike could cause some consternation for Milton and Georgetown residents who have less public transit opportunities to get to their local hospitals than residents in south Halton, Peel or Toronto. Milton Transit only has one bus route that goes to the hospital while Georgetown doesn't have a standard transit service.

Parking fees collected by hospitals in Ontario cover the cost of building, maintaining and administering such lots. Any extra revenue is used to support local hospital programs and services. The Ministry of Health doesn't provide any funding for hospital parking lots as it sees the facilities as a revenue generating activity, similar to cafeteria and preferred accommodation services.

HHS is currently investing \$600,000 into its parking facilities in Milton, including paving, installation of pay station machines and the creation of 30 new spots. Approximately \$400,000 is being spent at Georgetown and \$700,000 in Oakville for similar improvements.

Due to the capital improvements, the hospital corporation doesn't expect to see any profit from the increased parking fees in Milton and Georgetown for two to three years. HHS took in about \$1.4 million in net parking revenue at its three sites last year.

Hospital volunteers will continue to receive free parking. The corporation also plans to retain its short-term parking meters in Milton for the time being, said a hospital spokesperson. Those meters currently charge 50 cents for 10 minutes, 85 cents for 20 minutes or \$2.50 for a 30-minute maximum.

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Hospital Visitor Parking Rate Comparison

Hospital	Per Half Hour**	Daily maximum	Day Pass***	Weekly Pass	Monthly Pass
Halton Healthcare Services (HHS)*	\$2.75	\$14	\$18	\$40	\$65
Joseph Brant Memorial - Burlington	\$2.50	\$14	N/A	\$40	\$60
Trillium Health Centre - Mississauga	\$2.50	\$14	\$17.50	\$60 (10-pack coupons)	\$150 (30-pack coupons)
The Credit Valley Hospital - Mississauga	\$2.50	\$14	\$17.50	N/A	\$65
Brampton Civic Hospital	\$2.50	\$12	N/A	\$35	\$65
Toronto General Hospital	\$4	\$21.50 (\$7.50 Nites, Sundays and Holidays)	N/A	N/A	N/A
St. Joseph's - Queensway - Toronto	\$2.50	\$15	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Harmonized rates to take effect mid-July at HHS's Milton, Georgetown and Oakville hospitals.
** Some hospitals, including HHS, allow for 15 minutes of free parking for pick up and drop off.
*** Passes include in and out privileges. HHS passes can be used at all three hospital sites.

source: information compiled from hospital websites

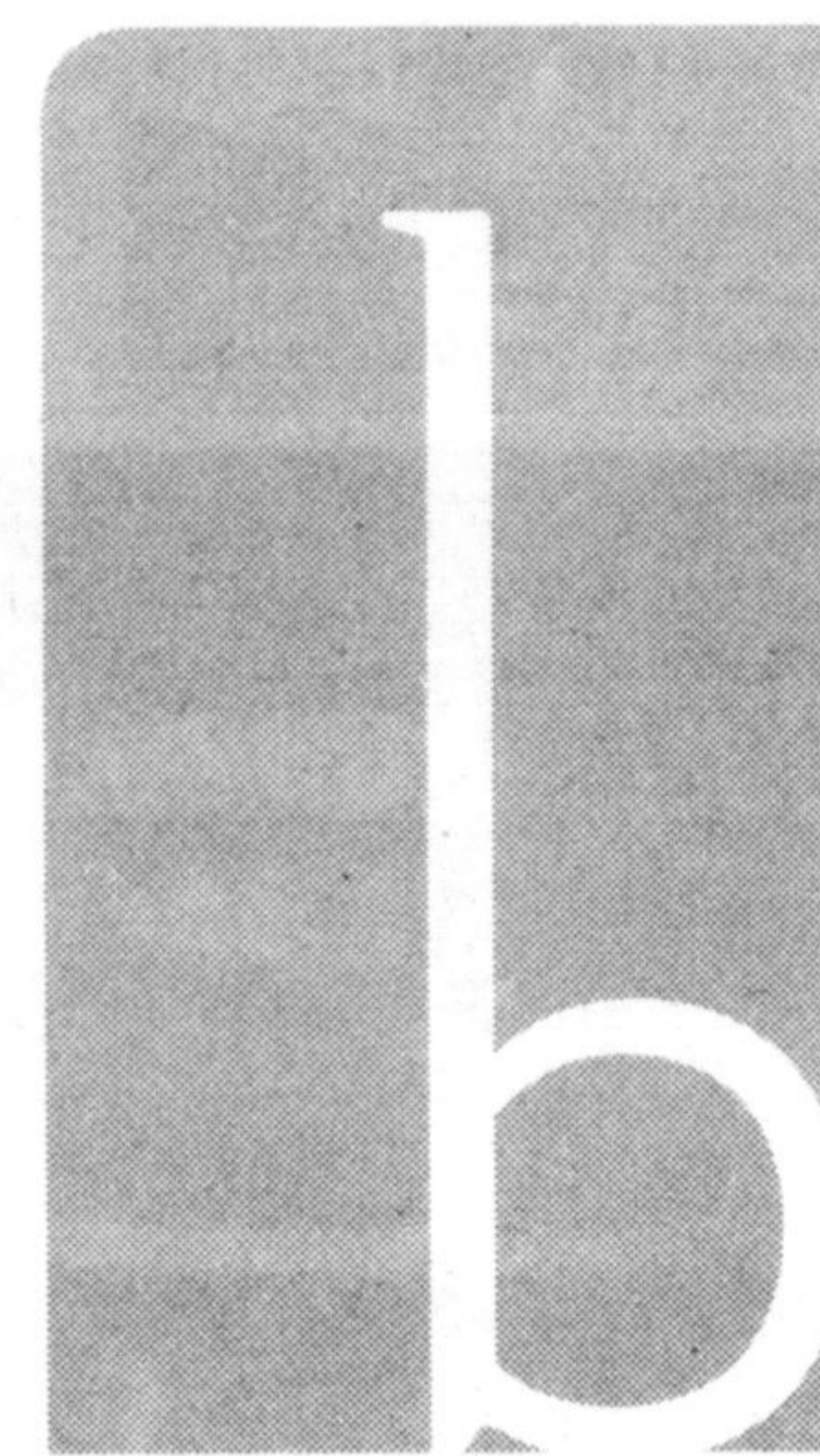
BERGSMA'S ONE DAY SALE 24th Anniversary Sale

Saturday, July 11
8:00AM - 5:30PM

Bergsma's are at it again this year, celebrating 24 years of home décor business here in Milton. This year's One Day Sale promises to be as exciting as years gone by. They have created product presentation that exudes a welcoming shopping space for clientele. Customers looking for lighting to complement their new enhanced décor, can browse through the Main Street Lighting showroom offering a full selection of lighting fixtures from classic to innovative. Chandeliers are creatively displayed throughout the showroom with modern eclectic and traditional furniture pieces. Dining and kitchen tables, parson chairs, bar stools, occasional chairs and ottomans complete the furniture department, giving Milton access to lines that previously were not available here. See Sunpanimports.

com or whionline.com to view some of the collections. Hunter Douglas window treatments create harmony in every room and are available at sensational summer savings.

Paint, passion and partnership are the core values here at Bergsma's. These common values are what has attracted Bergsma's to C2 Paint and The Coatings Alliance. This brand is the only cooperatively owned paint brand in North America.



Unlike most big business, C2 provides a fertile ground for fresh ideas and values the voices of their partners and peers. When you purchase C2 paint you are not only buying the finest quality paint in the industry, you are supporting your local independent retailer, stimulating the local economy and doing business with people who are your friends and neighbors.

Lovo, a C2 paint brainchild, has quickly become a favorite of Bergsma's customers. This Low VOC environmentally friendly paint brand is poised to be the industry leader in low VOC technology with a limitless and customizable colour palette, complex colours unmatched by any low-VOC paint line to date, a green sampling program and superior application, coverage and durability to boot. Don't miss out on your opportunity to try Lovo, available Saturday at a whopping 40% savings during Bergsma's annual One Day Sale.

Innovation has been the key to Bergsma's success. By constantly expanding their range of products and striving to be respected and admired by everyone they do business with, the bar has been raised for home décor right here in Milton.

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Fatima has been involved in financing Chevrolet and GM products for the past 23 years. We invite Fatima's friends and customers to visit Fatima in the showroom at 801 Main Street East (across from the Milton GO Station) or contact her at 905-878-2355 or f.costa@wallacepontiac.com

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