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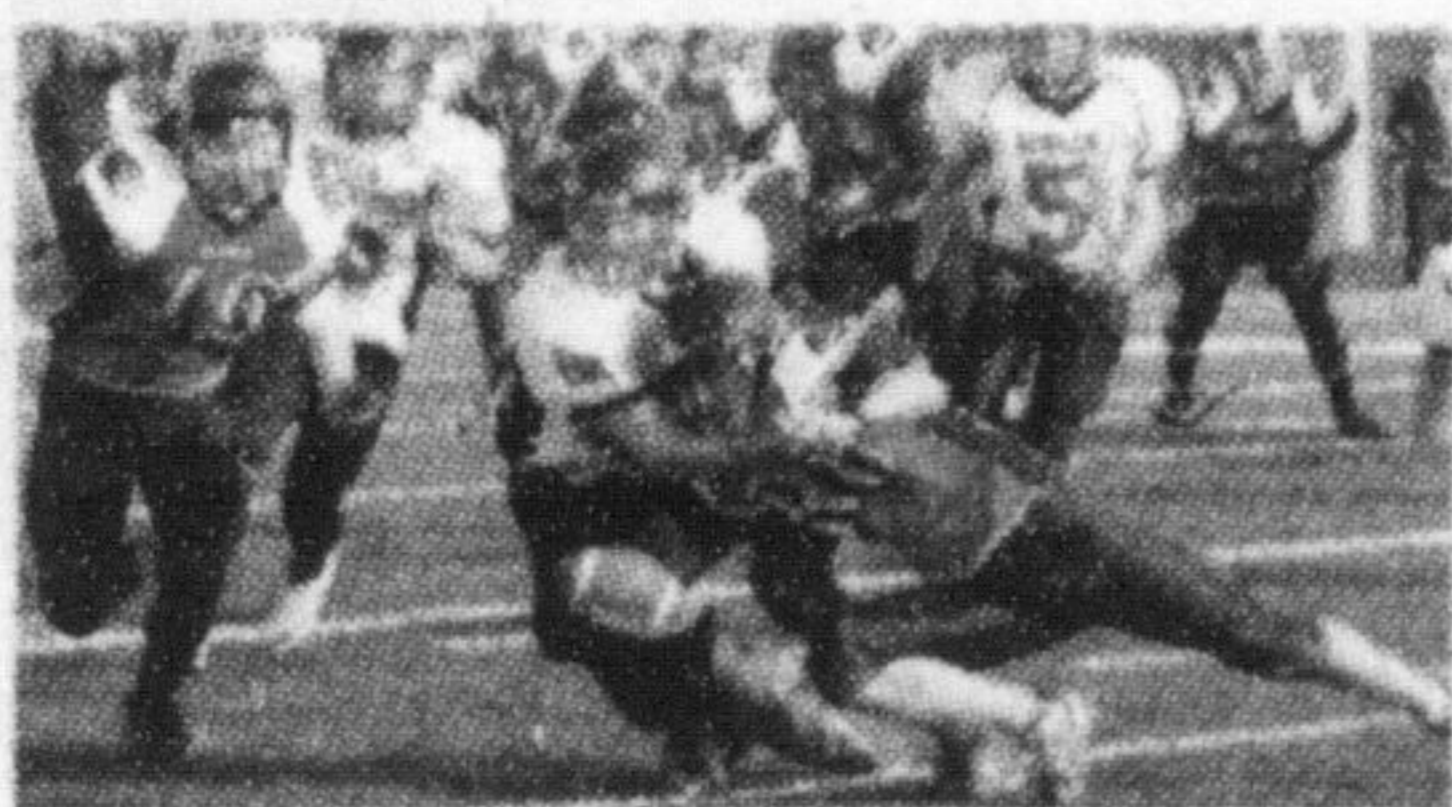
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LHIN prepares its position on hospital expansion

By Tim Foran
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The fact that Miltonians go to hospitals outside their community half the time for in-patient service doesn't lend support to the scope of a proposed expansion to the programs and services offered at Milton District Hospital (MDH), according to a recent presentation made to the board of directors at the Mississauga-Halton Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

Of the 5,823 cases in which Miltonians stayed in a hospital in 2007-08, only half of those cases covered time spent at their local hospital, the presentation noted. If the severity of cases is taken into account as part of a weighted measure, less than 40 per cent of the case time was in MDH. Milton residents ended up at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital about 15 per cent of the time, and in hospitals in Mississauga around 17 per cent of the time.

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS), which operates MDH, estimates Miltonians will start using their local hospital more following an expansion to the services offered at the facility as well as to its overall size, the presentation stated.

However, that 'repatriation' might not occur as there's an expectation residents will continue to go to other larger redeveloped hospitals in the region, including the expanded Credit Valley Hospital and

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REMEMBERING THE FALLEN: Second World War army veteran Dewart Downs, 84, takes a moment to remember lost comrades during the playing of the 'Last Post' at the Remembrance Day service Wednesday. See more photos of the event at the cenotaph at Evergreen Cemetery on page A3.

Halton CAO praises staff for H1N1 work

By Tim Foran
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

As the Halton health department conducts the second wave of vaccinations against the H1N1 virus — this time including schoolchildren and seniors — Regional staff were praised Tuesday for how they handled the first public health clinics, especially in the challenging early days.

Following an H1N1 update by Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal at regional council's health committee meeting, the Region's top employee, CAO Pat Moyle, took the unusual step of involving himself in discussion to stick up for his staff.

"I really wanted to say for the record that I am, we are all, extremely proud of the work that Dr. Bob (Nosal) and his staff have done to get us to where we are today," said Moyle. "I think there has been some frankly unfair editorial comments about the (vaccination) process and about how this program has been managed."

Moyle was referring to an editorial that ran in some Metroland Media Group newspapers describing the rollout of the vaccine at the first public health clinic October 28 as a "nightmare."

"Having just two H1N1 vaccination sites — one in Acton which dispensed about 900 doses of vaccine and a second at Halton Region headquarters in Oakville that delivered 3,500 vaccinations — was a recipe for disaster," the editorial stated.

Following the meeting, Moyle told a reporter Regional staff were "crestfallen" at that description, and he took the initiative to post e-mails from appreciative residents for staff to read.

During the committee meeting, Moyle said the Region didn't expect the massive influx of people at the first clinics, which contributed to long line-ups in poor weather, because it thought other public health units in the GTA would meet the demands of their own residents.

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