

High school completion pushed back

By Tim Foran
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Halton's public school board has pushed back the planned opening of its new public high school in Milton until sometime in 2011.

"We haven't ascertained a date in 2011 yet," said the Halton District School Board Milton Trustee Donna Danielli.

She said the opening could be in January or September of 2011, depending on how construction is progressing. The board had previously hoped to open the school by September, 2010.

Due to the delay, students and programs currently accommodated at E.C. Drury High School will continue to stay open until the new high school opens.

In May, the Town of Milton's council approved rezoning of a 17-acre site at the southwest corner of Fourth Line and Louis St. Laurent Avenue, in what is called the Bowes neighbourhood, to allow for the high school.

A widening of the two-lane Louis St. Laurent isn't planned to coincide with the opening of the school. A traffic impact study received by planning staff concluded the roadway could handle the extra traffic generated by the school, though future improvements are expected to include traffic lights at Louis St. Laurent and Fourth Line and possibly Louis St. Laurent and Ferguson Drive.

Danielli said the design of the school includes a zone for drivers to drop off or pick up passengers. She said she couldn't predict if parents would ignore the zone in favour of simply stopping on Louis St. Laurent, a situation that has happened in front of the Catholic school board's Bishop Reding High School on Main Street East, according to Town staff.

While boundaries for the new high school haven't yet been determined, Danielli said she expects many of the students will walk to school as they would be ineligible for busing due to living within four km of the school. She didn't have statistics immediately available to state what percentage of students ineligible for busing walk to school rather than being driven by parents.

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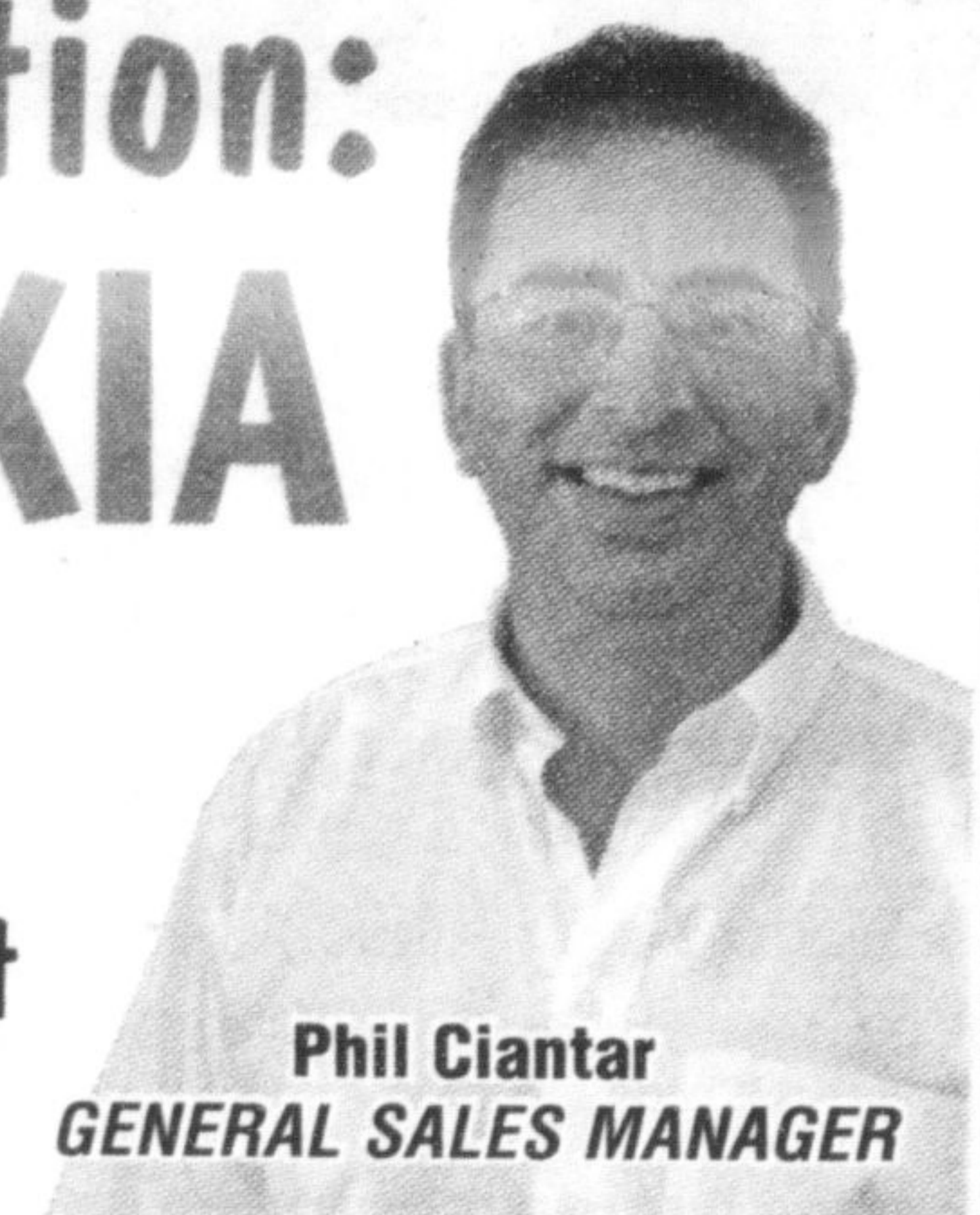
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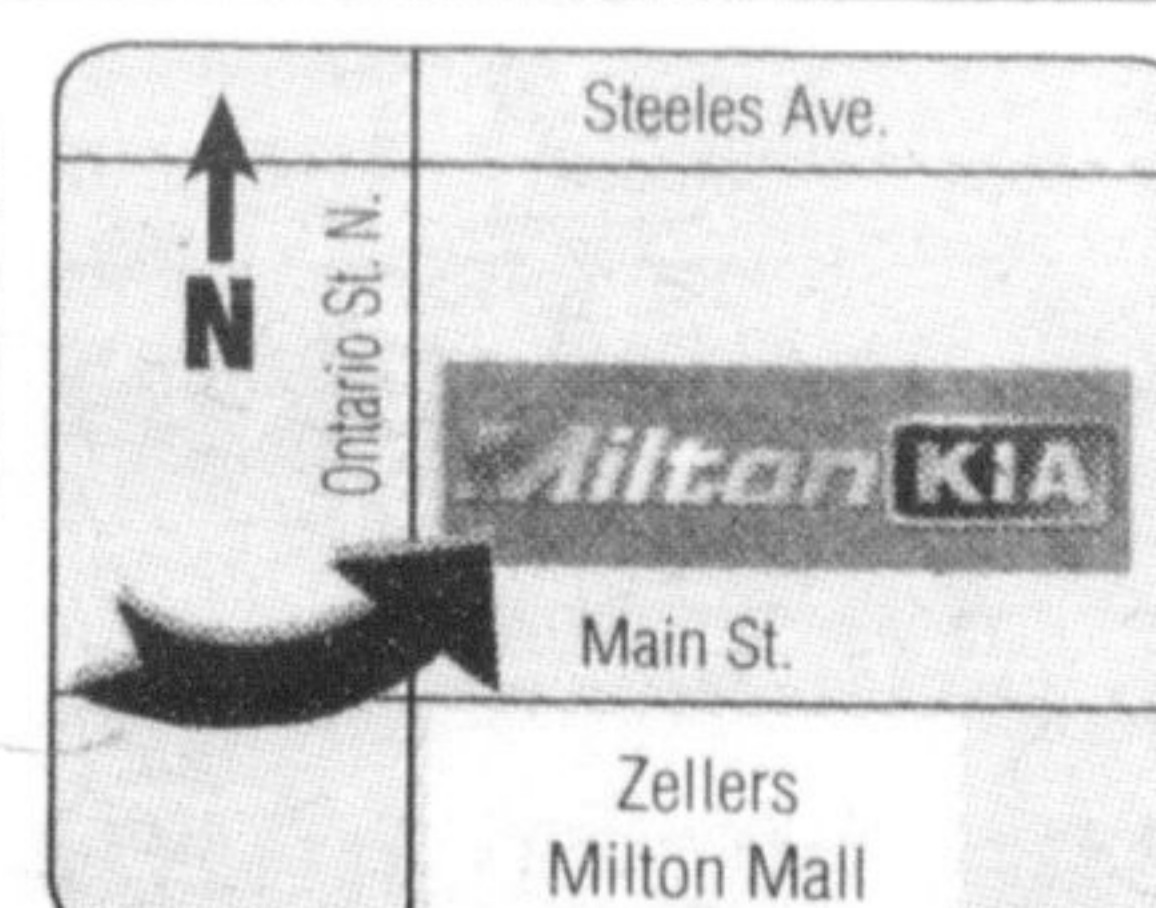
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