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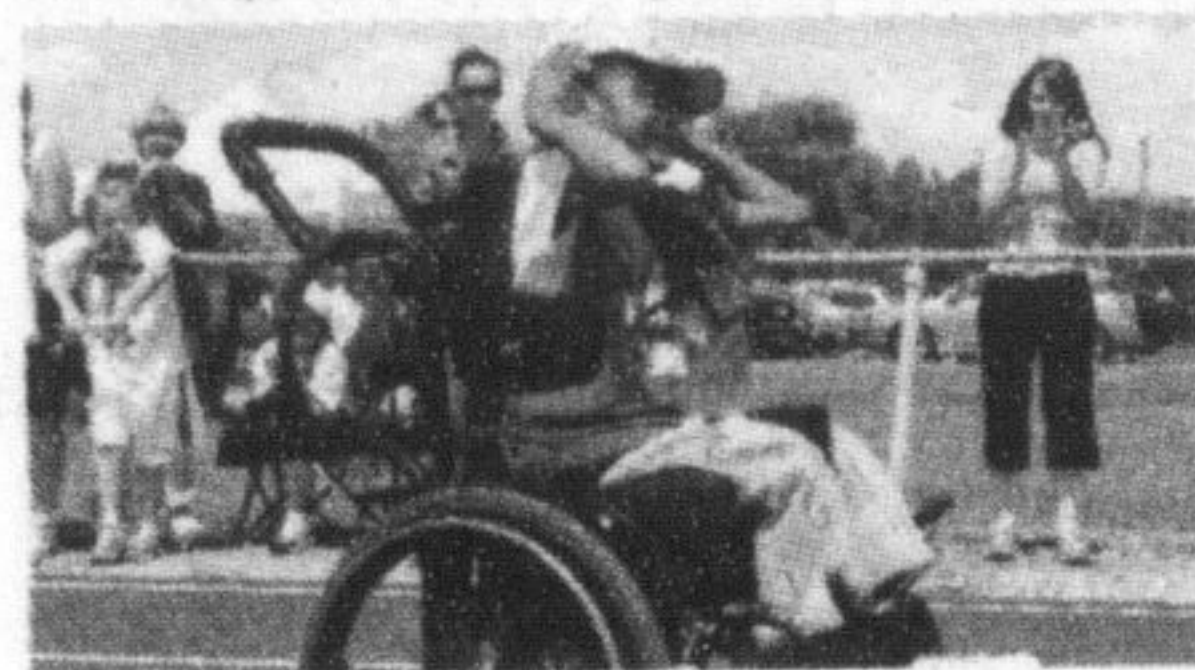
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Marisa Prada (left), local Salvation Army Food Bank warehouse manager, and Jennifer Carter, Milton Salvation Army family services director, show the empty crates in the food bank.

Halton seniors better off living independently with care: CCAC

By Tim Foran
 METROLAND MEDIA GROUP

It's preferable to receive care at home in the community than be placed into a long-term-care home.

That sums up the approach to managing the care needs for Halton's seniors and special needs people by the two community care access centres (CCAC) serving the region's communities.

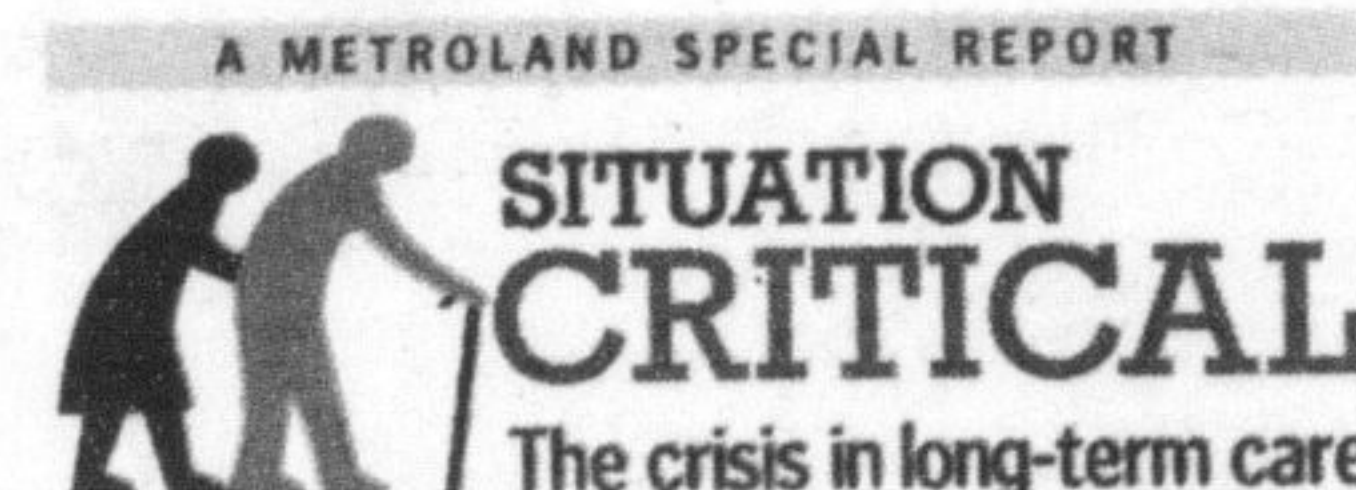
"CCAC is primarily about supporting people to live independently in the community by connecting them with care," explained Barbara Busing, senior director of client services for the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) CCAC, the Provincial agency that oversees the city of Burlington.

"Our emphasis is on keeping people in the community," added Rachel LePage, a spokesperson for the Mississauga-Halton CCAC, which covers Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills.

Both agencies say their caseloads are mostly geared around connecting the elderly to in-home services — help with daily tasks such as bathing or cooking — or services offered in the community such as adult day programs. The CCAC caseworkers also provide information to clients on alternative living arrangements such as supportive housing, seniors apartments or private, unsubsidized retirement homes — accommodations that provide a certain level of assistance but more independence than a long-term care home (LTC).

Busing said, of her agency's annual caseload of 70,000 people, clients receiving services from the CCAC while waiting to get into an LTC accounted for only 18 per cent.

Only if all available community resources are



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• see LONG-TERM-CARE on page A17

Local food bank in desperate situation

By Stephanie Hounsell
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

With just three packages of rice left on shelves — and some other essential groceries nowhere to be found — the Salvation Army's food bank is heading into the summer months in rough shape.

Combine those bare shelves with the fact summertime is when the fewest

donations come in, and the situation is looking desperate, said Angela Hunt, administrative assistant with Milton's Salvation Army Food Bank, which is looking to the public for help.

"I'm nervous we won't have enough of some absolute staples to get us through to the next major drive at Thanksgiving," Hunt said.

The difficult financial times and

Milton's ever-increasing population are adding up to place a big strain on the food bank, she said.

In the first five months of this year compared with the first five months of last year, there has been an almost 25 per cent increase in the usage of the food bank, with 541 residents using it this year (January to May) and 435 last year.

• see ONE on page A2

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