

Region's hospitals looking for a \$22 million boost

Halton Region taxpayers will likely inject Halton's hospitals with more than \$22 million over the next six years — and that amount could increase if the Ministry of Health digs deeper into its pocketbook.

The region has a policy of funding up to one-third of hospital capital costs as approved by the ministry.

Currently, two projects have ministry approval — a \$54 million investment in Oakville Trafalgar Hospital that includes expansion of acute care and psychiatric services, and a \$6.1 million project at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital which emphasizes outpatient care. Halton will kick in \$18 million and \$1.4 million respectively for those initiatives.

A third one — a \$15 million chronic care wing for Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital — is on the verge of approval according to regional sources, with Halton anticipating a contribution of \$500,000.

Representatives from all three hospitals were on hand at Monday's health and social services committee

meeting to present their cases.

Milton District Hospital was noticeably absent from the grant list, but regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo assured, in an interview after the meeting, that Milton has not been forgotten. Over the past couple of years, he said Milton's hospital has received more than \$4 million for expansion.

While provisions have been made to accommodate these already approved hospital expansion programs, Mr. Rinaldo cautioned that the hospitals have additional expansion requests before the ministry, such as a \$20 million chronic care facility for Oakville Trafalgar and two additional phases to the Joseph Brant expansion.

If these were all approved in the six-year period, the regional contribution would rise by \$9 million, he noted.

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Junior Ranger program open

Junior Ranger Program applications for 1990 are now available at Halton Centre MPP Barbara Sullivan's constituency office.

The program, open to 17-year-old youths, provides participants with an opportunity to protect and conserve public lands, waters and associated resources, said Ms Sullivan.

"This Ministry of Natural Resources youth program is very popular and young people interested in applying are urged to do so soon," she added.

Junior rangers receive free board and lodging in one of the ministry's 35 camps across Ontario as well as a basic wage of \$15 per day.

The constituency office is located at 3067 Mainway Dr. in Burlington.

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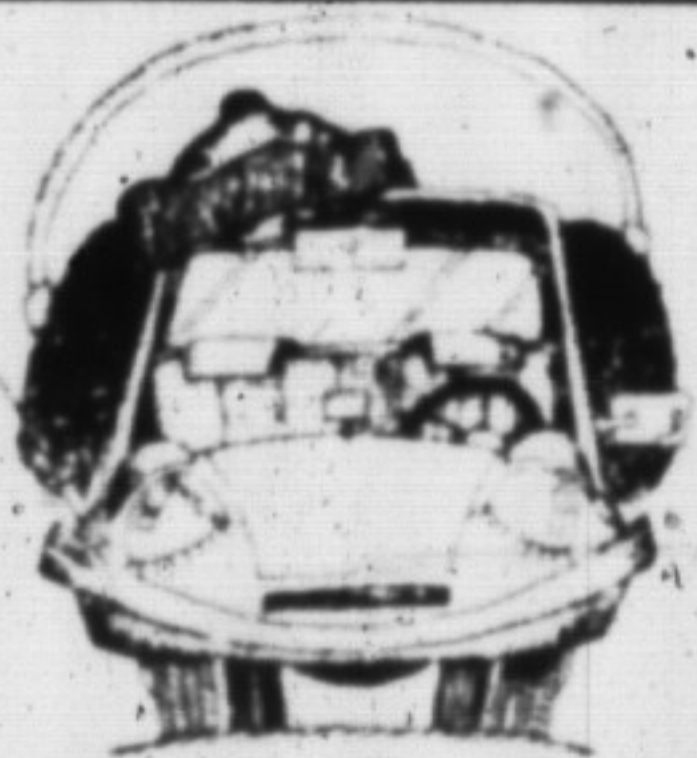
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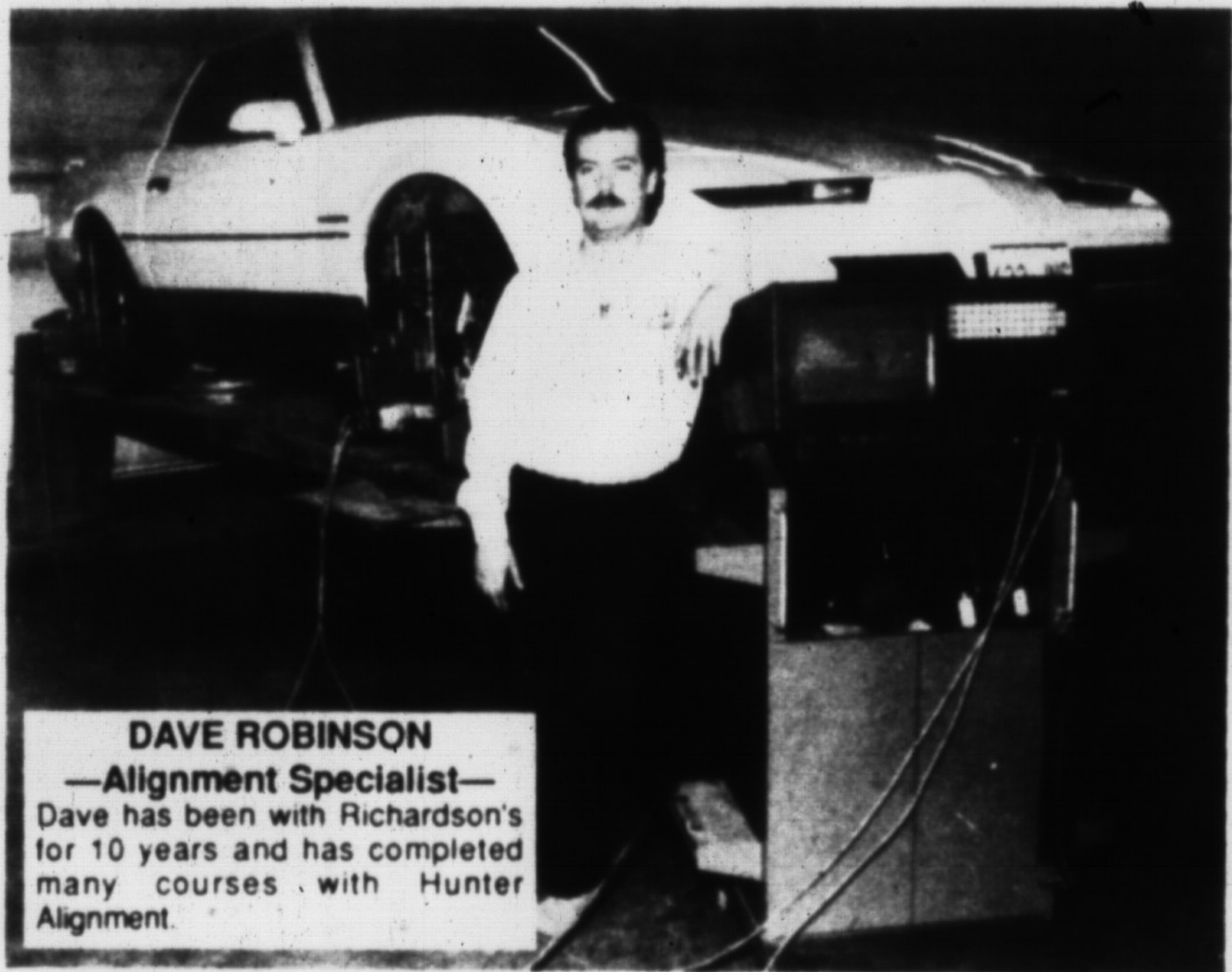
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