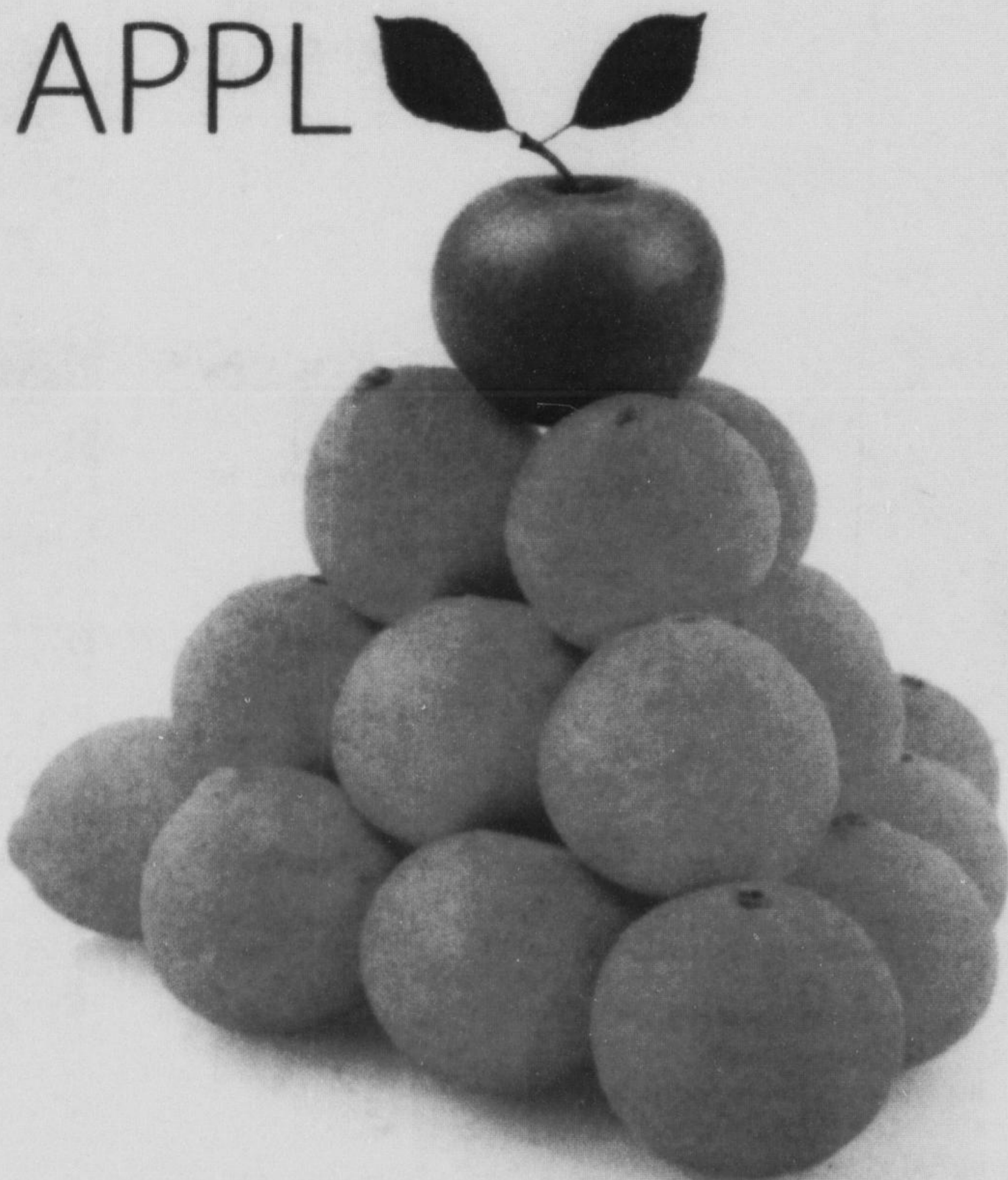


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Recruitment program brings 22 family physicians to area

A Halton Region physician recruitment program brought 22 new family physicians to Halton in 2012, according to a Regional report presented to regional council March 27.

The initiative, which was created in 2002, has been actively attracting prospective physicians to Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville through marketing and promotion strategies that include community tours, participation in trade shows, recruiting and networking events and website, www.halton-doctors.ca.

The report, which highlights the program's achievements, states a total of 182 doctors have been recruited to Halton communities since 2003 to address the issue of family medicine physician shortages in the area.

"Halton's collaborative approach to physician recruitment is a key factor in the program's success," said Regional Chair Gary Carr.

"Working together with our four local municipalities, local hospitals, clinics and community representatives, we are achieving our goal

of protecting public health by attracting new physicians to establish and maintain medical practices here in Halton."

The report also reveals that Halton has retained 74 per cent of its physicians, representing 134 full-time permanent doctors.

The statistic takes into account retirements, relocations and physicians who took over family practices since 2003.

The Region also continues to support the Halton McMaster Family Health Centre family teaching unit, which will move to its permanent location at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington next year.

There are six first-year and five second-year family medicine residents based at the site, with the second-year residents graduating this July.

Eight new first-year residents will join the program shortly after.

A list of newly recruited doctors accepting patients across Halton can be found by visiting www.halton.ca/newphysicians.

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