Region deficit \$700,000?

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audit", establishing whether the slowdown occurred in the reporting of financial statements between the region and Halton's member municipalities or between the treasurer's office and the other regional departments.

Mayor Pomeroy said that he, as well as Burlington Mayor Roly Bird and regional chairman Jack Raftis, had been "pushing for a management review study for the last two years."

He said because he spends "the bulk of my time in my town office" he and other councillors representing their respective towns at regional council are "more dependent on the staff at the region" for

information and may not always be completely aware of what is going on. As to a solution for recover-

ing the deficit, Mayor Pomeroy said he "doesn't anticipate any interim tax increases".

NOT AS BAD Coun. Mike Armstrong, Ward 4's regional representative, said the deficit issue is not "nearly as bad as it is made out to be" but that it does indicate that councillors will have to keep a "closer watch" on budgetary figures in the

He conceded that the flasco has tarnithed the region's public image but said he had received no adverse backlash from people in his ward.

Milton Coun. Bill Johnson.

TRIPLE FATALITY

Three men were killed in an accident early Sunday

Kevin Wright, 19, of Oakville, Juan Maggiani, 31, of Mississauga and Carlos Maggiani, 25, who was visiting from Uruguay, South America, were killed in the accident. Michael Appleton, 19, of Oakville, a passenger in Mr. Wright's car, was injured and remains in satisfactory

condition in Milton District General Hospital. The cause of the accident, which occurred at about 8 a.m., is still under investigation. The accident took place at the Fifth Line and Derry Road in the town of Milton.

Urban study on sewage costs

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The urban review study may yet prove to be the town's best defence against the Focal lawsuit if it is ever brought before the courts. Consultants' findings could support the town's rassertion that the sewage treatment system will not safely service a population greater than 30,000.

If the study finds that storm waters are infiltrating the sewage system, adding to the amount of waste the plant now handles, the planning study which would follow will carefully match urban growth with new capacity estimates.

The study's main objective is to determine what population growth the system can handle and still maintain a safe, ministry of environment-

-year, the study will be examin- Venditti.

ing sewer lines and flows, establishing where leaks might be contributing to the systems burden by adding rain

run off to the affluent. The consultants are also expected to provide the town with cost estimates for repairs to the system and treatment plant expansion.

Of the developers' major financial role in the sewage capacity section of the study, Coun. Armstrong told The Herald last week that "there certainly isn't any collusion at

"The steering committee is dealing strictly with the con-

sultants," he said. The ateering committee is composed of regional chairman Jack Raftis, Mayor Pete Pomeroy, planning committee chairman Roy Booth, Coun. approved outflow into Rogers Armstrong, regional planning director Raj Mohammed, and During the course of the town planning director Mario

usually quick to take regional committees and departments to task when he smells trouble. said Monday evening that council might share some of the blame for the deficit for not acting on an understaffing

problem in the treasurer's

Coun. Johnson said that Mr. to properly work out the 1980 operating budget, an opinion shared by Mayor Pomeroy. He said he hoped the management study would tell council "where the inefficiency lies

overworked". Meanwhile, at least one local group, which two years ago called for a provincial review of regional government in Halton, may be revitalized by

and which departments are

the region's deficit ills. Norm Elliot, once vicechairman of the defunct "Actonians for Action" group, says the deficit crisis is "bearing a few things out" which the group was concerned about two years ago when it lobbied for changes in the regional

government. The deficit, said Mr. Elliot, "is proof positive that the councillors are out of touch with the operations of the staff. We had warnings of this earlier; people are wondering

what's going on." Actonians for Action had advocated a more "locally involved" regional system and felt that under the current government, councillors are

"spread so thinly trying to do their job that it's difficult for them to keep on top of the

"One of the things we advocated as a group was some from of accountability ... a watchdog to keep an eye out

for this sort of thing." Mr. Elliot said that with lobbles forming in Mitton, Oakville and Nassagaweya demanding improvements to the regional government, "maybe we should get together again".

Farmer may have been overworked with the sewer surcharge study when it was time to properly work out the 1800

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