Special to the Independent/Free Press

Cases of tuberculosis will increase unless Halton Region takes a more active role in preventing the spread of AIDS, the region's chief medical officer of health has warned.

"TB is exploding right now," Dr. Bob Nosal told the region's health and social sevices committee. "One of the major reasons for the increase in TB is through HIV (the virus that causes AIDS). One of the major concerns with people who get HIV is, will they get TB?"

Statistically speaking, "one of us will probably get (TB)," Dr. Nosal told the committee.

Although there have been only "nine or ten" reported cases of TB annually in Halton, "in Peel, there's around 100 a year," Dr. Nosal said.

The number of reported cases of TB in Halton has almost tripled since 1990, according to Dr. Nosal's annual report dealing with the region's communicable disease control programs.

An effective way to prevent the spread of HIV, and in turn, the spread of TB, is through a needle exchange program. It involves selling sterile needles and syringes, and needle bleach kits, through

local pharmacists to intravenous drug users, Dr. Nosal said.

Dr. Nosal said the HIV virus can be spread either through sexual transmission - both homosexual and heterosexual - or through the sharing of needles by intravenous drug

He said about 13 per cent of individuals who contract HIV are intravenous drug users.

Dr. Nosal said several communities have successfully implemented the needle exchange programs, including Guelph, Niagara Region, Hamilton, Toronto, and Peterborough. Currently in Halton, pharmacists only sell sterile needles and syringes to individuals who have demonstrated a medical need, such as diabetics.

Halton's needle exchange program would also focus on educating intravenous drug users about the proper way to use bleach kits - which are basically plastic bags containing a small bottle of bleach and a bottle of sterile water used to sterlize needles and syringes.

"The use of bleach as an effective disinfecting agent against HIV has been called into question," he said. However, the bleach solution is effective when used properly, stressed Dr. Nosal.

The campaign would also attempt to allay "unfounded" public concerns that needle exchange programs promote drug use, he said.

The possibility that the distribution of needles could further drug abuse is of concern to committee chairman Ralph Scholtens, a

Burlington regional councillor.

"I appreciate that AIDS is a problem," Scholtens said. "But by the same token I have difficulty in giving tax dollars in aiding a program which helps people to inject

themselves with illegal substances."

"My initial conern is that I don't want to be involved in dispensing drugs. If we're in the business of handing out tools for the dispensing of drugs, that's as immoral as dispensing the drugs themselves."

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale called Scholten's comments "somewhat extreme."

She said the community also has a responsibility to protect "the unsuspecting partner" of an intravenous drug user who may contract HIV. Mulvale said there's no distinction between HIV sufferers who have contracted the virus "either from sex or drug abuse."

Mulvale conceded, however, the public's perception will be that the region's adoption of the needle exchange program "will seemingly support drug users."

The committee directed Dr. Nosal to approach local pharmacists about the feasibility of implementing the needle exchange program and to report back.

MIKE JOHNSON TREE SERVICE LTD.

Tree and Stump Removal

Pruning of Trees and Shrubs

FREE ESTIMATES

Fully Insured
Specials for Seniors
Since 1961 454-5927



RESIDENTIAL/BUSINESS WELCOME

WE GUARANTEE THE LOWEST PRICES IN THIS AREA ON DIESEL AND GAS FUEL. WE ALSO CARRY OIL, CIGARETTES, CHIPS AND POP

\$2 Off every 100 litres of diesel. Business discounts on diesel.

Hwy. #7 NORVAL 488 GUELPH ST. 877-7879

"After the sale it's the service that counts"

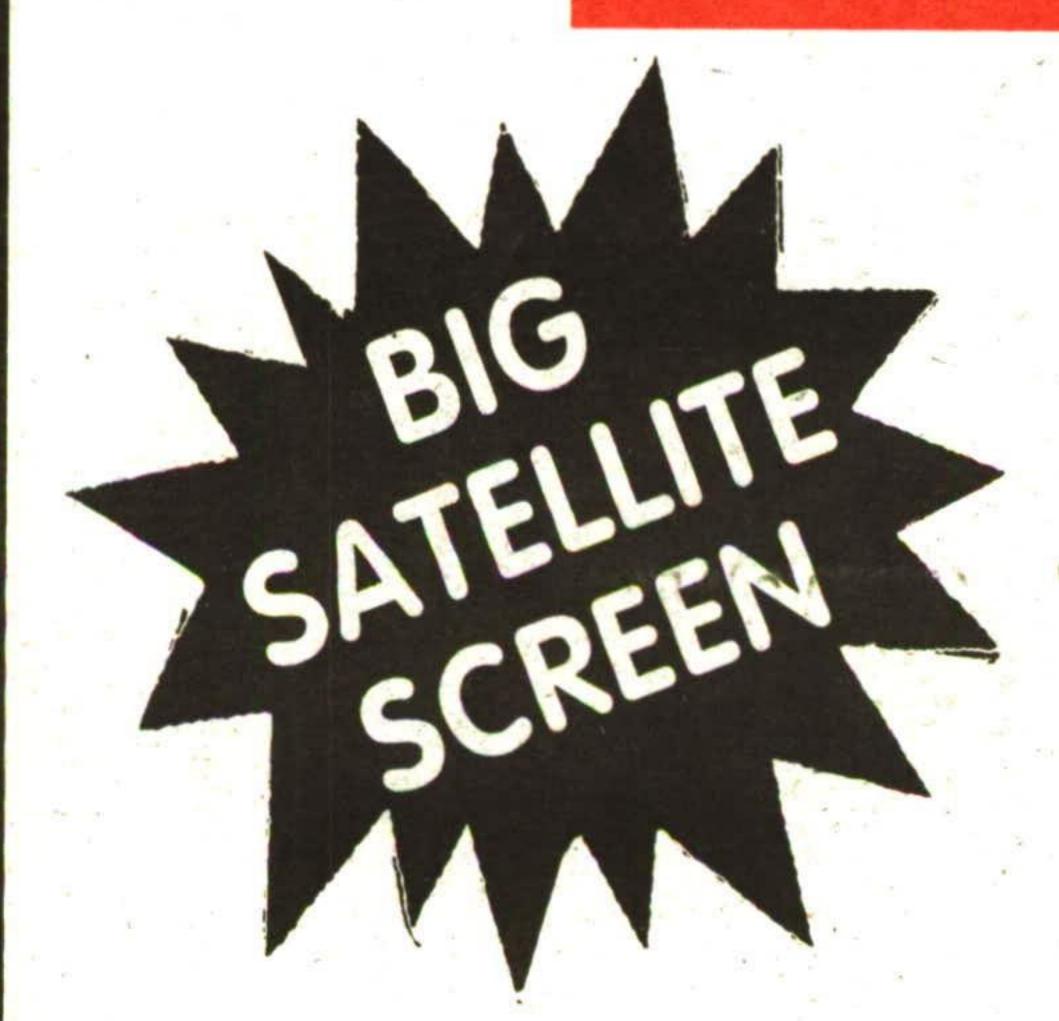
PLAY POOL



LTD.



10 POOL TABLES





GEORGETOWN'S HOTTEST NEW ENTERTAINMENT SPOT

Licenced by LLCBO

GIVE US A TRY!

VIC

873-7794

222 Guelph St., Georgetown

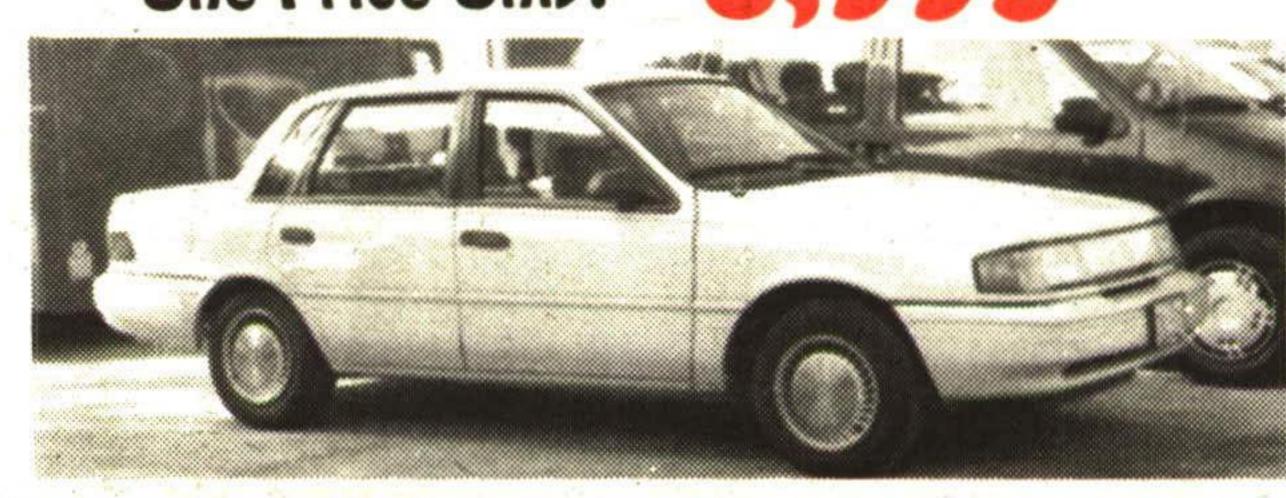


1992 TOPAZ "GS" 4 DOOR

Air, auto, stereo. Finished in Antique Cream! This is the last of our '92 Service Vehicles - Stk. #P1321

One Price & Only!

\$8,99500



## SPECIAL OF THE WEEK

1990 Aerostar XLT

7 Passenger Extended. Loaded. Stk. #3005A \$15,995

1990 Bronco II XL Sport

V6, auto, air, tilt, cruise, power locks & windows. Stk. #3252A

\$14,995

1990 F150 XLT Lariat

302 V8, power windows & locks, tilt, cruise.
Black & Silver. Stk. #3153A

\$13,995.

1992 Ranger Super Cab 4x4

V6, air, tilt, cruise, box liner. Stk. #3293A

Auto, air, stereo cassette.

\$15,995

1989 Sunbird 2 Door L.E.

\$6

\$6,995.

Phone and Ask About Our Incoming Trades

OVER 40 VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM

Conveniently located on Highway #7 between Georgetown and Acton

PARK LINCOLN-MERCURY

877-2261