

Rural residents express traffic concerns

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The concern is how long the region will have the debt, she said.

"We try to be very careful not to push it out too far, so we're not in debt over our head," she said.

"This growth should be predictable," said an audience member who asked if Savoline was saying Halton was reactionary.

Savoline said developers can sit on land for 20 to 30 years, and it's only when a subdivision application is filed that the Region knows they're serious about developing.

Knuff also said the east-west traffic through Halton was also grid-locked.

"(Hwy. 401) is the main road of Ontario and it's not getting the job done," said Knuff, who added, when traffic is clogged on that highway it spills onto, and is taking its toll on, local roads.

He asked what plans there are for east-west roads in north Halton.

Ho Wong, Halton's Manager of Long Range Planning, said improvements are planned for both Derry Rd. and Steeles Ave., and the region's 10-year capital budget includes \$800 million in roadwork.

"We are not sitting on our hands," said Wong. "Ultimately we have to work with the province."

He said the province is considering a freeway from 410 to Guelph that could pass through Acton and Georgetown. He added there are also plans to expand both the Georgetown and Milton GO lines to provide all-day service.

There is also a transit way (a separate bus lane) planned for Hwy 407, said Wong.

"We cannot rely just on building roads," said Wong.



Halton Police Chief Ean Algar addresses the audience during Tuesday's Rural Community Forum. Photo by Lisa Tallyn

Another Halton Hills resident asked whether the stoplight planned for 15 Sideroad and Regional Road 25 was going ahead this year, and was told by Savoline it is.

Halton Police addressed the problem of motorcycles speeding and making excessive noise on area roads that was brought up at the last rural forum.

Police ran a project for three consecutive weekends in the summer in north Milton and found of the 376 motorcyclists captured on radar, 347 were compliant. Of the 287 tickets issued, 28 were to motorcyclists, and over 60 per cent of the violators were local residents in cars.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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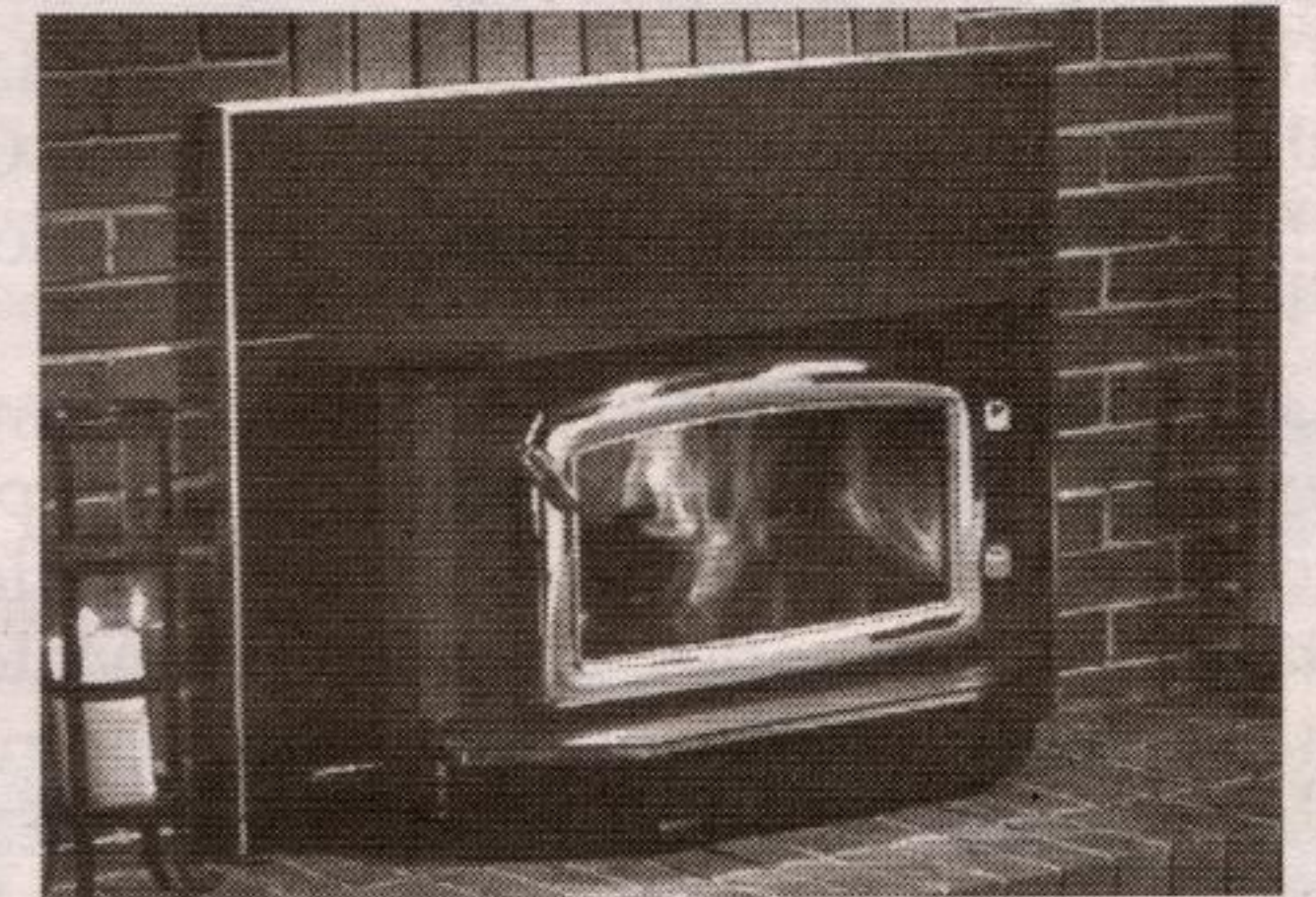
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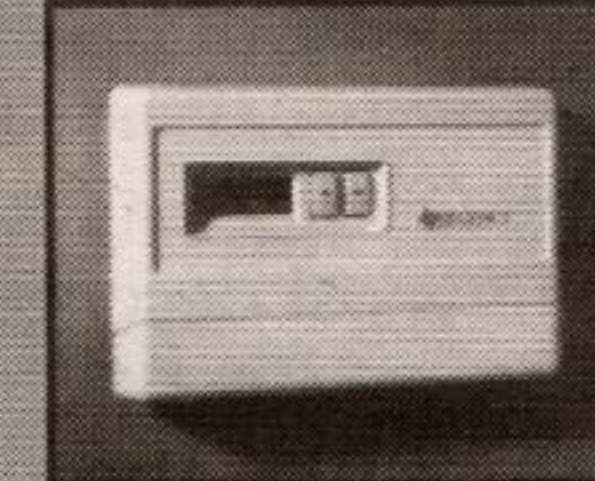
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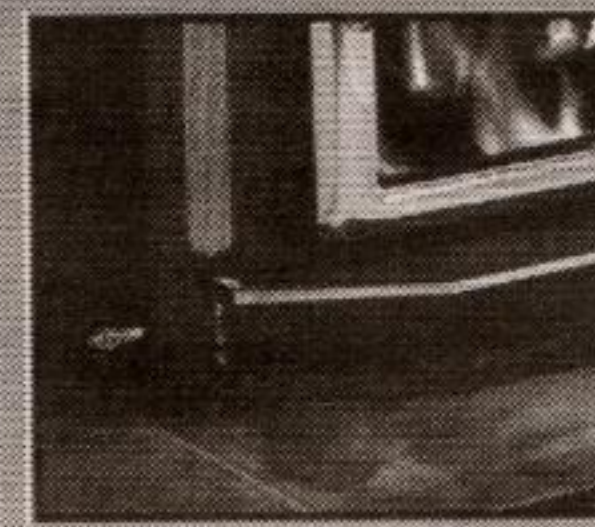
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