Council nixes sludge

Wants more information before applied to park

Pear of the unknown— the application of biosolids (sludge) on the Trafalgar Rd. Sports Park-led many Halton Hills councillors to send a message to Halton Region staff, essentially saying "come back and explain this to us and maybe we'll consider it."

Halton Hills council recently deferred the report on the proposal to a future meeting when Halton Region staff will be invited to make a presentation on the process.

Councillors Ron Chatten, Clark Somerville and Bryan Lewis opposed the deferral.

Halton Region's Biosolids Recycling Program is one way Halton Region deals with the more than 350,000 litres of human waste each year that is treated and recycled as biosolids. The program has been operating in the region's rural area for more than 25 years. Sewage sludge is the organic by-product of the region's seven wastewater treatment plants and about 20,000 tonnes of dewatered solids are spread on farmland annually as a free service. The biosolids are recognized as a high quality fertilizer for agricultural properties.

The program operates under a Certificate of Approval issued by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, which inspects and approves all individual farm fields benefiting from the procedure. It also follows guidelines set up by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and by the Ministry of Health.

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> BRYAN **LEWIS**

being rented to a local farmer. The soccer pitches currently located in the park will not be sprayed. Councillors' con-

the biosolids onto a

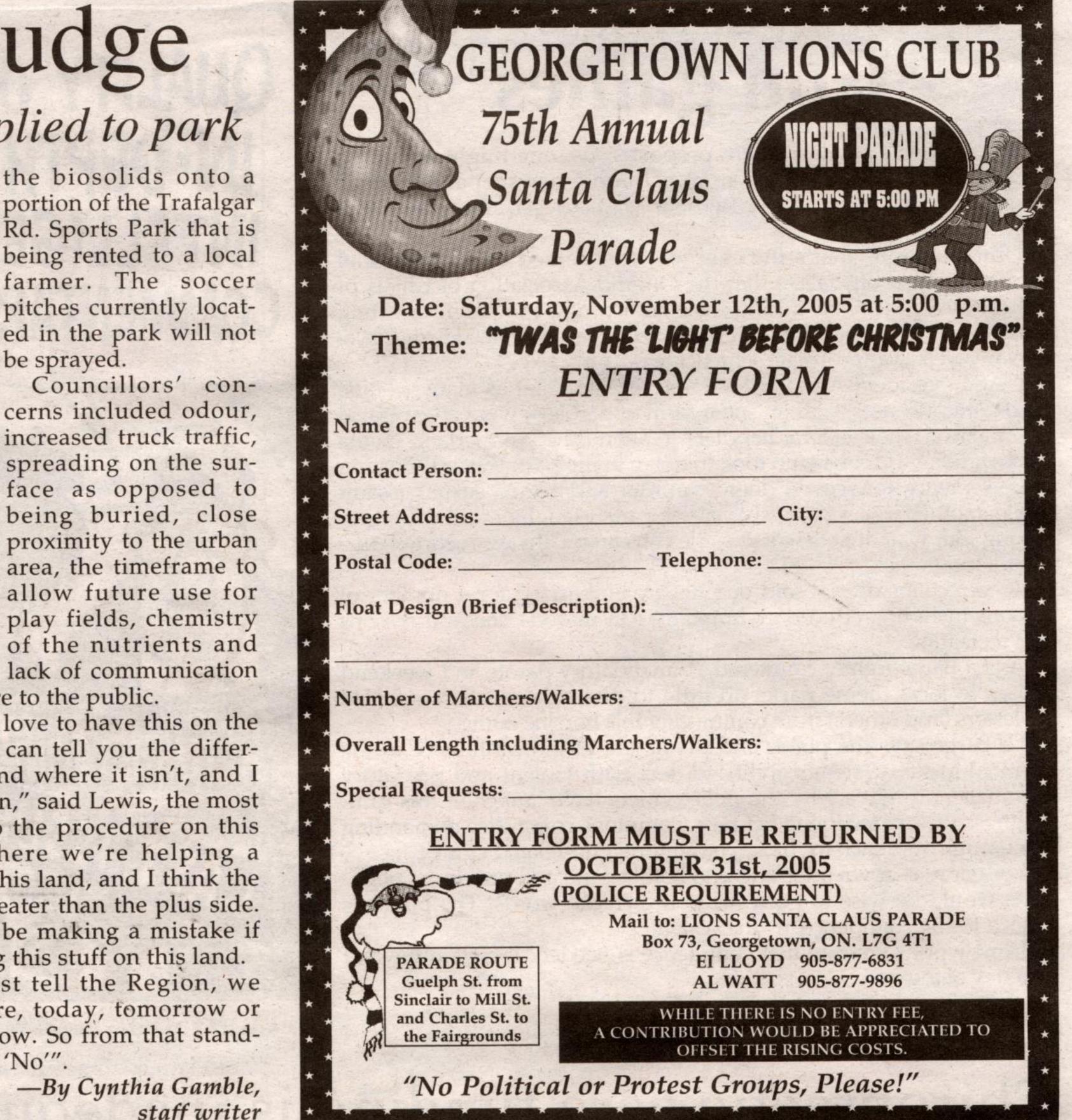
portion of the Trafalgar

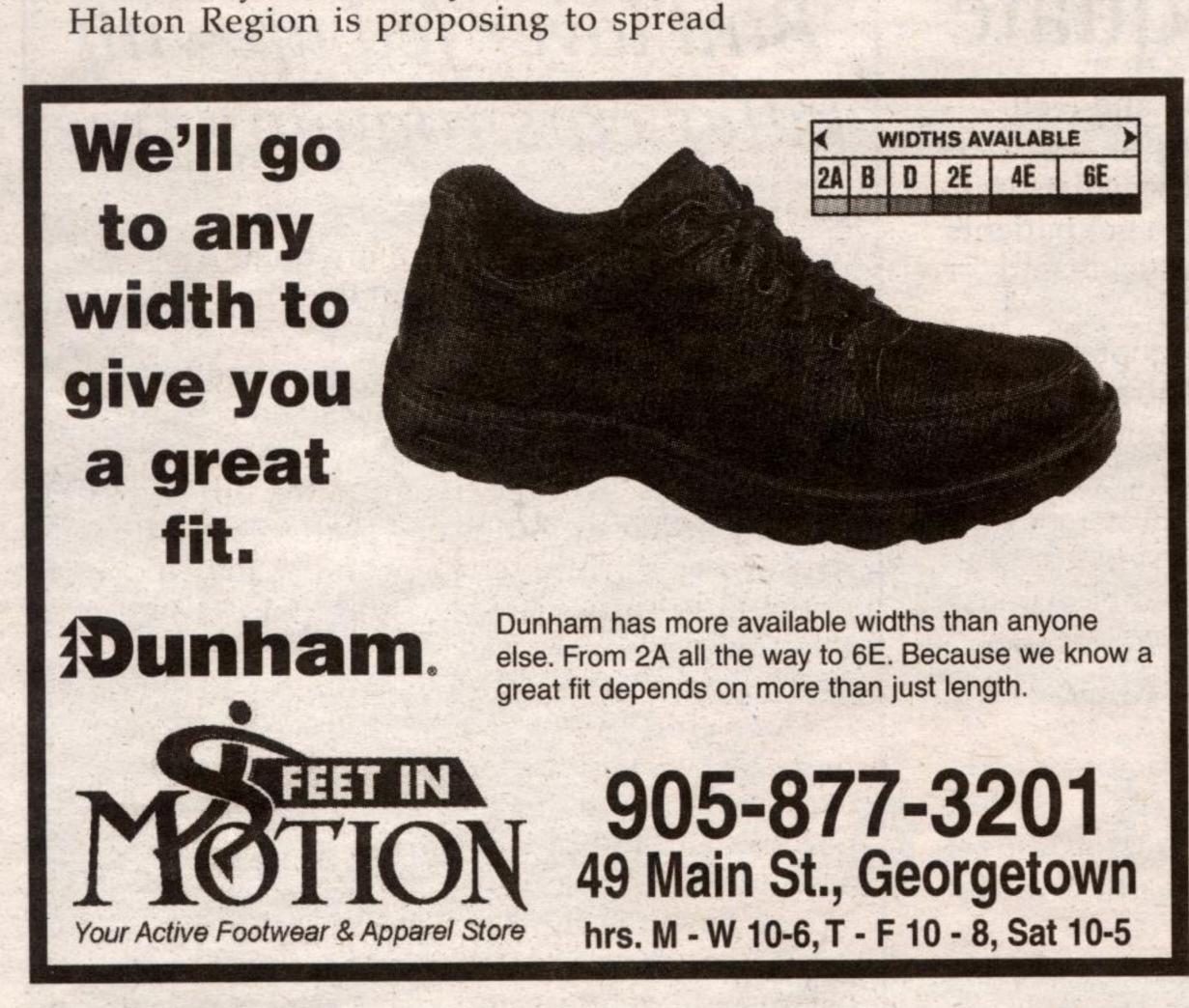
cerns included odour, increased truck traffic, spreading on the surface as opposed to being buried, close proximity to the urban area, the timeframe to allow future use for play fields, chemistry of the nutrients and lack of communication

about the procedure to the public. "They (farmers) love to have this on the field because they can tell you the difference where it is and where it isn't, and I respect that opinion," said Lewis, the most vocal opponent to the procedure on this parkland. "But here we're helping a farmer who rents this land, and I think the downside is far greater than the plus side. I think we would be making a mistake if we endorse putting this stuff on this land.

"We should just tell the Region, we don't want it there, today, tomorrow or two weeks from now. So from that standpoint, I simply say 'No".

-By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer





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