

Budget attempts to strike balance

Halton Regional Council has begun to review the 2006 Operating and Capital Budget for regional programs and services.

Our goal in developing the 2006 budget is to ensure the health and safety of Halton residents—and the financial sustainability of our community. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the priorities driving this comprehensive financial plan.

The 2006 budget addresses road projects identified in Halton Region's 10-Year Master Plan. Road projects scheduled for construction in 2006 include new traffic signals at Steeles Avenue and the realigned Fifth Line, and at Steeles Avenue and Ninth Line South. Road projects currently undergoing Class Environmental Assessments include the widening of Trafalgar Road from two to four lanes from 10 Sideroad to Highway 7, and the widening of Steeles Avenue from two to four lanes from James Snow Parkway to Trafalgar Road.

Other priorities of the 2006 budget include the construction of water and wastewater main projects on Maple Avenue west of Guelph Street in conjunction with the reconstruction of Maple Avenue, and the refurbishment of the Todd Road Water Tower. Design projects include water and wastewater replacements in the Edith Street/Park Avenue area, water and wastewater replacements on Greystone Crescent and a watermain and wastewater main on Main Street from George Street to Church Street. These projects will be implemented in partnership with the Town of Halton



Hills to ensure our efforts are efficient and co-ordinated.

Creating the regional budget is never an easy process. The challenge, as always, is to strike a successful balance between meeting the needs of the community, and mitigating the financial impact to Halton taxpayers. However, I am confident that regional council and staff will once again create a fiscally responsible plan that provides residents with the programs and services they rely on to continue their excellent quality of life, while allowing us to make necessary investments in Halton's infrastructure.

If you would like more information on the 2006 budget planning process, please call 905-825-6000, Toll Free 1-866-4HALTON or TTY 905-827-9833, or visit our website at www.region.halton.on.ca. Please note that as of January 1, 2006, Halton Region's new web address will be www.halton.ca. This new, simplified address is just one more way that we working to make it easier for Halton residents to access programs and services.

—Joyce Savoline is the chair of Halton Region

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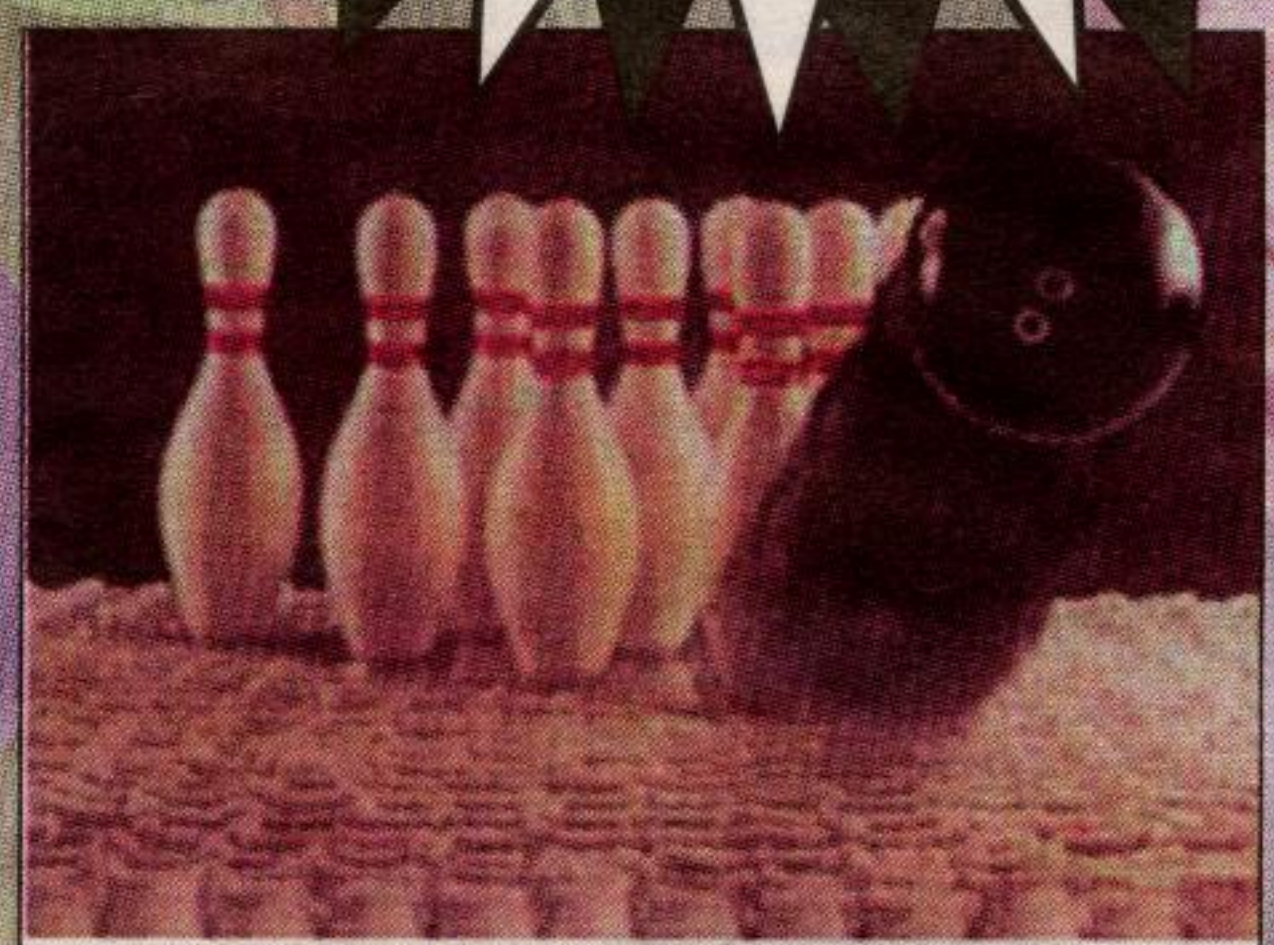
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