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Milton-Burlington amalgamation proposed

• from MACISAAC on page 10

he received an endorsement from Milton council.

There is one good reason to delay any talks, according to Milton councillors Brian Penman and Rick Malboeuf.

"We are concerned about HUSP (the Halton Urban Structure Plan) especially

between now and July when many decisions are being made," said Mr. Malboeuf. His comments were echoed by Mr. Penman, who said there is a delicacy at Halton council regarding these issues and HUSP.

Milton is gathering financing to underwrite a \$100 million pipeline from Lake

Ontario to support expansion.

There is some resistance to that development in south Halton — Burlington in particular.

The thinking among some Milton councillors, it would appear, is that any talks regarding amalgamation could compromise Milton's long-awaited growth plans.

This because others would, as potential partners in a combined community, demand more say in the matter.

With regard to Mr. MacIsaac's bid, "The proposal is about long term survival given the implications of the Greater Toronto Services Board (GTSB)," said Mr. Penman.

"We are trying to find out what their agenda is."

Fear that the GTSB — which is slated to be up and running before the end of the year — will eventually take over many of the functions of regional government is fueling discussions.

Mr. Malboeuf said he feels all doors should be left open because amalgamations are inevitable and Milton will not be ignored when they occur.

Mr. Malboeuf said the consensus among councillors is to wait for a second Burlington invitation, hopefully after the HUSP situation is resolved.

He did say he questioned why discussion occurred in private and added he might bring the issue up at various committee meetings to make the issue public.

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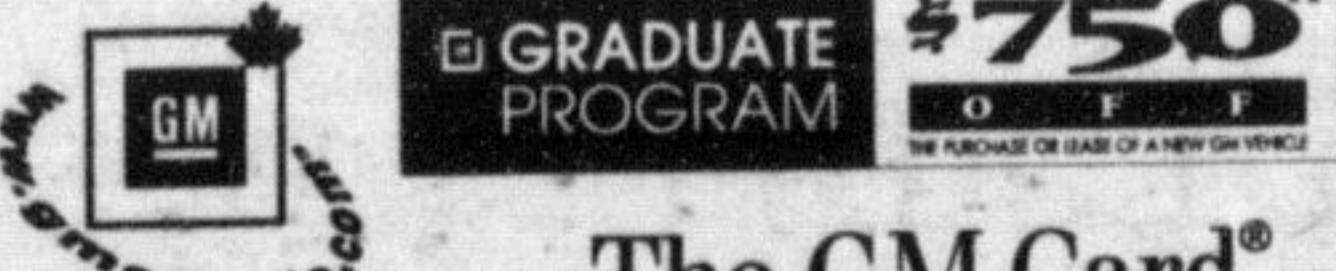


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