

More muddy water woes prompt new explanations

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

Limited rainfall last summer and this spring may be partially to blame for Milton's muddy-looking tap water.

The two abnormally dry seasons have contributed to elevated manganese levels in water systems across the province, Halton's director of environmental services, Ric Robertshaw told Milton council recently.

"A number of municipalities have been reporting higher manganese levels than in the past," he said.

Not harmful

Though manganese will make water look unpleasant, it is not harmful, assured Halton's environmental health specialist John Hall.

"The water quality meets and supercedes the standards set by the Ministry (of Health)," he assured council.

To ensure water quality, Halton water is tested for a slew of substances such as e coli, iron, trihalomethane and coliform on a weekly, quarterly and yearly basis.

So far, Milton's water has always come out clean.

That includes the sludgy-brown water some residents discovered coming out of their taps in early May.

"It appears that manganese is the problem. That is not a health risk at all," said Mr. Hall. "It is one of the least toxic substances on earth."

Improving the appearance of the dingy looking water is simple, said Mr. Hall.

"All you'd have to do is filter it or let it sit for a while and it would be clear as crystal," he said. "There is nothing in my mind to be concerned about with the Milton drinking water."

A watermain break at Main and Fulton on May 1 also likely contributed to the problem, said Mr. Robertshaw.

At that time, the Region received up to 45 calls from concerned residents on the matter.

Main breaks create water flow disruptions which can cause particles of manganese or iron to break off the pipes and enter the system.

Any change in water flow can create a disturbance in the system,

said Mr. Robertshaw.

"If the demand in one area was very different than normal, there may have been a flow reversal," he said. "Whenever you have a flow reversal, it can cause a disturbance."

To minimize the chance of particles from water pipes getting into the system, the Region is set to tackle the second of a two-phase watermain cleaning program.

Watermains cleaned

Last summer, all small and mid-sized watermains were cleaned.

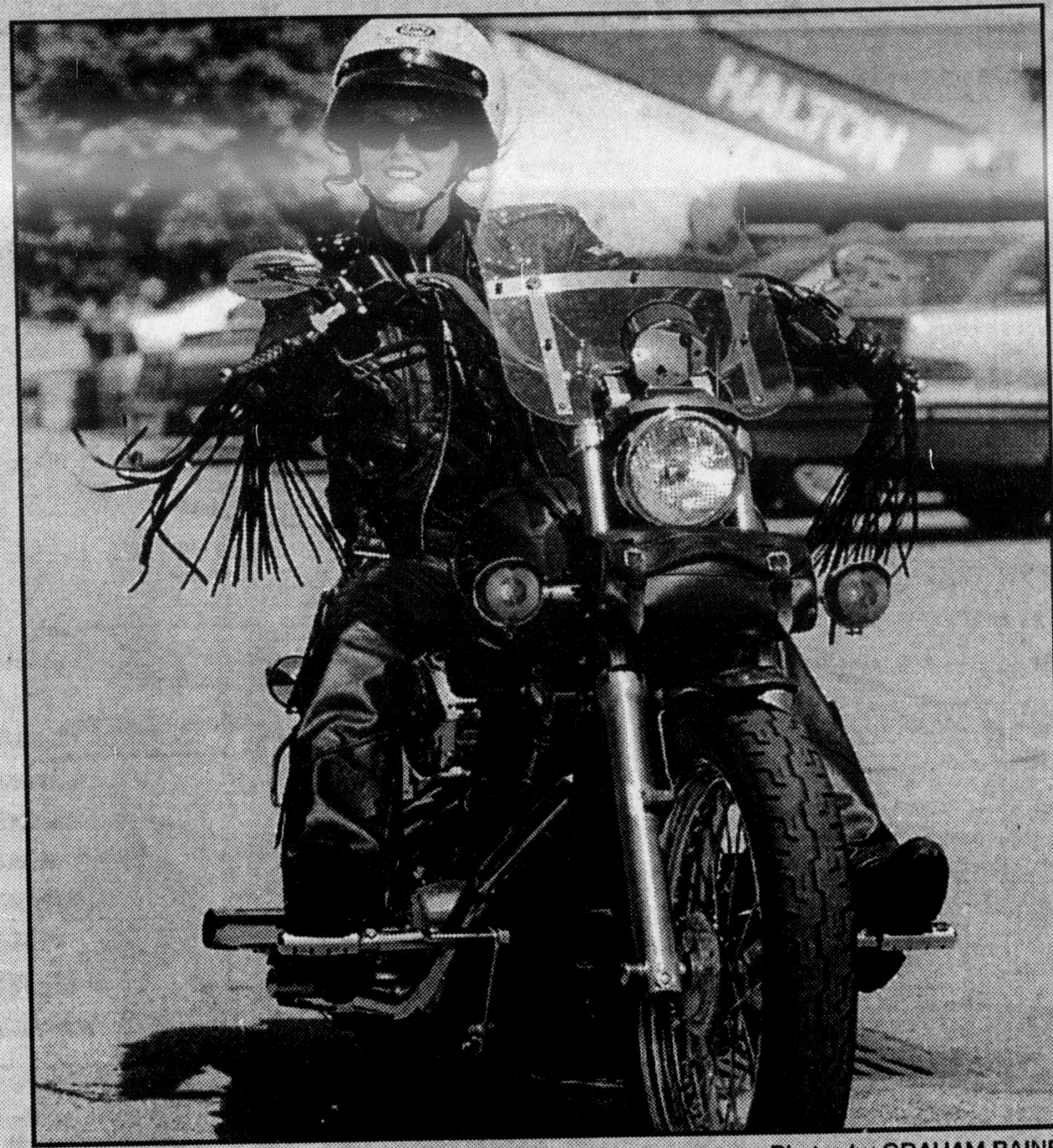
Work on the large trunk mains will commence shortly.

That could cause temporary supply problems for some residents, warned Mr. Robertshaw.

Water could be turned off from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on several different days, particularly in the Peru Road area.

"We'll be looking at providing them with as much notice as possible," said Mr. Robertshaw.

That phase of the program is scheduled to be completed by mid-September.



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Hog heaven

About 200 HOG members, including Cathy Sadler, took part in a charity poker run Saturday to raise money for muscular dystrophy research.

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REGION OF HALTON CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDIES HALTON URBAN STRUCTURE PLAN and MILTON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT RE-RATING NOTICE OF COMPLETION

Halton Urban Structure Plan Servicing Revisions

The Halton Urban Structure Plan set out a process to provide servicing infrastructure for the Region of Halton's response to pressures for new urban growth. Projects listed in the Water and Wastewater Servicing Master Plan, 1995 and the Master Plan Review, 1998 were planned in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Water and Wastewater Projects. A review of the Master Plan has been undertaken to address a small number of revisions to projects which are to be built for the first phase of development in Milton and Halton Hills (6,200 new homes and 500-700 acres of employment lands). In accordance with the commitments set out in the Master Plan, the Region has completed a Master Plan Review explaining the recommended revisions.

The recommended revisions include:

- New Elevated Water Tank:** the addition of a new elevated water tank on a Regionally owned site on the southeast corner of Highway 401 and Steeles Ave. in Milton to provide a separate Lake Ontario water supply in Milton for new residents.
- New Pumping Station at New Mid Block Arterial:** the addition of a new wastewater pumping station in Milton east of 16 Mile Creek, on the north side of the proposed new road between Derry and Britannia Roads.
- Regional Road #25 Intermediate Wastewater Pumping Station Relocation:** relocation of the wastewater pumping station in Milton from north of Lower Baseline Road to the Region's Waste Management Site; and.
- Fourteen Mile Creek Wastewater Main Relocation:** relocation of the proposed wastewater main south of Upper Middle Road from the east side to the west side of Fourteen Mile Creek.

These revisions are to provide a cost effective servicing strategy for urban expansion areas situated entirely within Halton Region in a timely manner with least environmental impact and community disruption.

Milton Wastewater Treatment Plant Re-Rating

The Region is also preparing an Environmental Study Report pursuant to the requirements of Schedule C of the Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Water and Wastewater Projects to document the Region's plan to seek additional wastewater treatment capacity at the Milton Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Region proposes to use the membrane bioreactor technology recently demonstrated at the Plant to expand the capacity by 1,000 cubic metres per day. The objective of the study is to increase capacity while maintaining the water quality in Sixteen Mile Creek.

This Notice is to provide further information to the public on the proposed projects and to seek input and comment from interested persons. Copies of both documents are available from the Region by contacting the Records Section at 905-825-6032. Copies of the documents are also available for public review at the following offices during business hours (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM):

Regional Planning & Public Works Department
Halton Regional Centre
1151 Bronte Road (Regional Road #25, north of QEW)
Oakville ON L6M 3L1

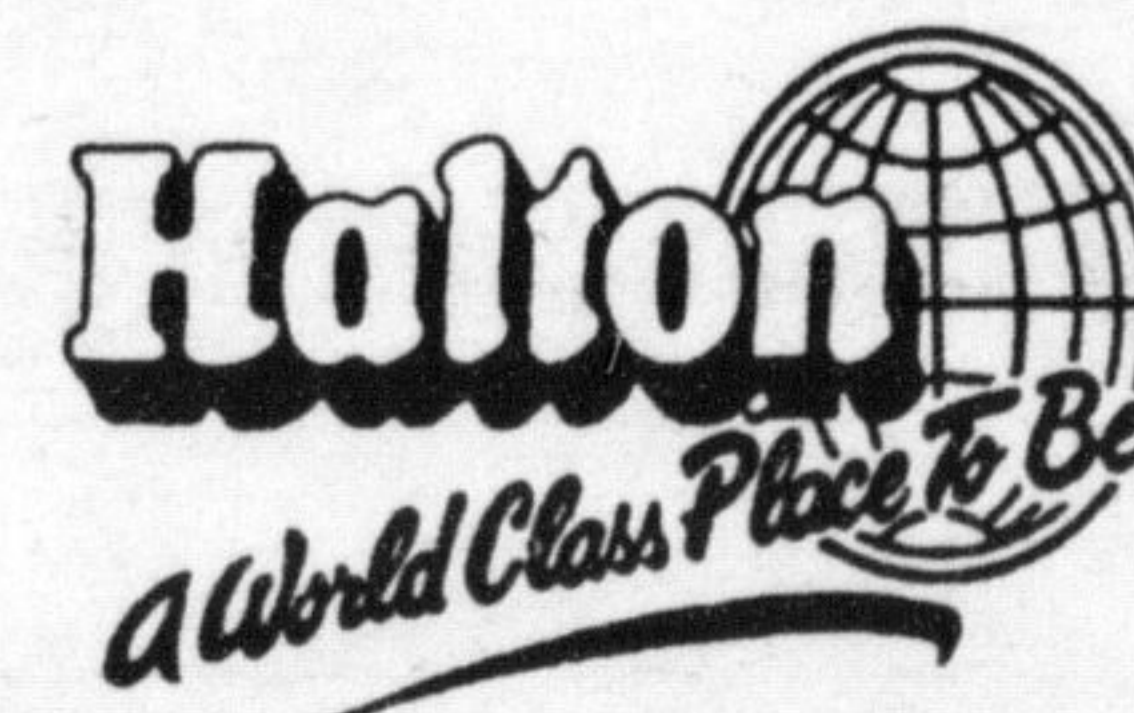
Town of Milton Municipal Offices
43 Brown Street (corner of Mary St., & Brown St., downtown)
Milton ON L9T 5H2

Interested persons should provide written comments on the above noted projects to the Region by July 6, 1999. If concerns regarding a project cannot be resolved in discussion with the Region of Halton, a person may request that the Minister of Environment "bump-up" the project to an individual environmental assessment. "Bump-up" requests must be received by the Minister at the address below by July 6, 1999. A copy of the "bump-up" request must also be sent to the Regional Clerk. If no "bump-up" requests are received by July 6, 1999, the Region of Halton will proceed to construct the projects as outlined in the Halton Urban Structure Plan Water and Wastewater Master Plan and this Review.

Minister of Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 15th Floor
TORONTO, ON M4V 1P5

For further information or to comment on the proposed revisions, please contact:
Ms Janet Amos, Environmental Approvals Coordinator, Region of Halton,
1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario, L6M 3L1, Telephone: 825-6000 (ext.7203)
or from Acton (905) 853-0501, or from Georgetown (905) 878-8113,
or from Aldershot (905) 639-4540 or from Streetsville (905) 823-6720
e-mail: amosj@region.halton.on.ca

This Notice issued June 4, 1999
Joan Eaglesham, Regional Clerk



www.region.halton.on.ca