

Future of Martin House is up in the air

• from **FLATTEN** on page 1
Connelly and David Sisam have recommended that the long-term care facility be replaced by a totally new, more cost-efficient structure.

But some councillors feel the home should be abandoned altogether in favour of moving long-term care beds to south Halton.

In the end, the issue was deferred. It will return to the table after councillors have had a chance to plow through the issue with the architects in an informal working session.

Martin House has been under scrutiny by the Region since it was judged in need of improvement by the Province.

At that time, Halton was given eight years and promised \$7.5 million to bring it up to long-term care standards.

To do that, the architects considered the feasibility of renovating the building both as a 100 bed and as a 168-bed facility. They also looked at the viability of building an entirely new 100 bed or 168-bed structure on the Allendale grounds.

Though Martin House can currently hold 100 beds, the Region was itching to petition the Province for 68 new long term care beds this summer.

A 168-place facility has lower operating costs than a 100-bed one.

Bringing the existing Martin House up to standard would be more costly than building a new place, Mr. Sisam told committee.

"I don't think we can be clearer on that," he said. "The recommendation is that the Region give consideration to a new 168-bed building with the demolition of Martin House to follow."

To minimize inconvenience, residents would stay in Martin House until the new structure is completed, said Mr. Sisam.

They would have to be transferred somewhere else if Martin House were to be renovated.

Mr. Sisam shot down a suggestion by Oakville Councillor Kurt Franklin that the

architects consider building an extension to Allendale instead.

"The building doesn't lend itself to expansion," he said. "If you look at the roof of Allendale, going up another floor would be a real challenge."

Another option would be to take beds from Martin House and transfer them to south Halton, suggested Mr. Franklin.

It's unlikely the Province will grant Martin House an additional 68 beds anyway, said Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale.

"I don't think the Province will give you 168 beds. I really don't," she said. "Especially when they realize that 50 per cent of the residents there are coming from the south."

The private sector should move in if the Region starts considering bringing beds to Oakville or Burlington, said Burlington Councillor Jack Dennison.

The Region should look at every option, including letting Martin House go completely, said Burlington Councillor Linda Schreiber.

"I think one of the options that should be put on the table is to do nothing," she said. "Demolish it."

That idea was nixed by Adeline Urbanski, the Region's health and social services commissioner.

"We do have an obligation to run a long term care facility as per the act," she said. "That hasn't changed."

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Page 6 — 4x36" Belt / 8" Disc Sander, 55-3554-4
This product does not come with a bonus 4" vise as stated in the flyer.

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Page 20 — ITEM #1, Rubbermaid 98L Garbage Container, 42-9764-8
Copy reads: Reg. 19.99, Sale 9.99, 1/2 Price
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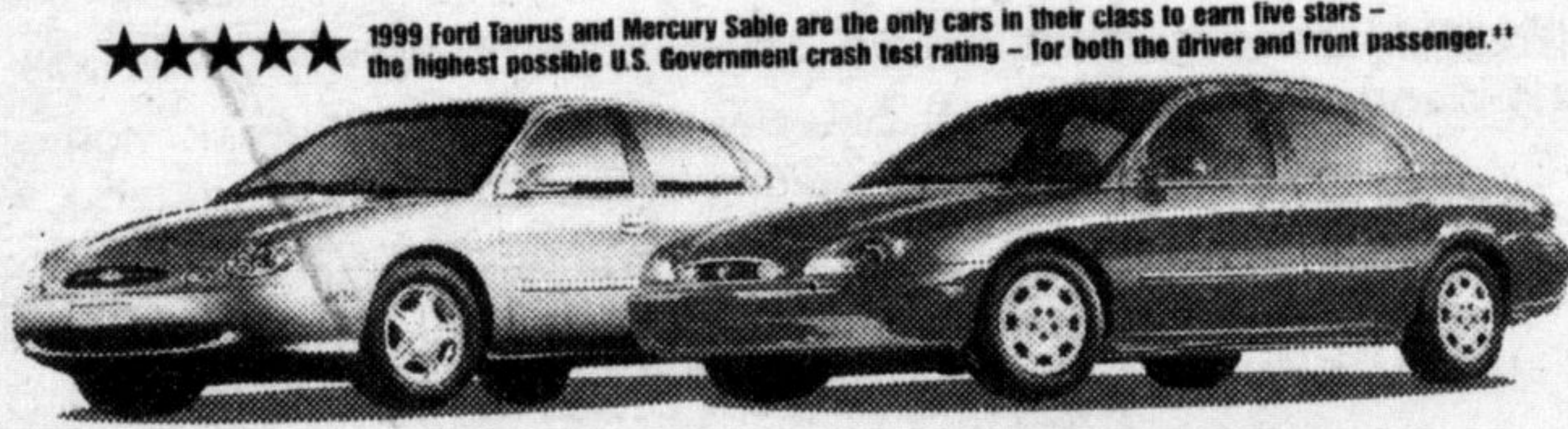


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