

Town should revamp, not kill, bus transit: consultant

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

Milton transit buses may be running on empty, but there are ways to refuel the sagging service, according to a recent consultant's report.

But reaction to the report by Chris Prentice of C.H. Prentice Consulting was mixed at the Town's recent community services committee meeting.

Still, the committee voted to approve the recommendations, which opted to extend the contract with current supplier Stock Transportation Ltd. until March 31, 2000.

The report will go to council for final approval next week.

Mr. Prentice was hired by the Town to study the system, which has long been under fire for being expensive and underused.

With usage limping along at about 200 rides per day, there has been speculation as to whether the service should be scrapped altogether.

But that isn't the way to go, advised Mr. Prentice, especially with Milton teetering on the verge of a population boom.

"Abandoning transit would have a long-term negative effect," he warned.

"Once you take something away and try to bring it back, those people will find other means of transportation."

Instead, he recommended reviving the system by shoring up the current service.

"The service is inconvenient and ineffective,"

"The service is inconvenient and ineffective. Ridership could be improved by improving service."

CHRIS PRENTICE

he said. "Ridership could be improved by improving service."

Currently, long, circuitous routes are too time-consuming for riders.

Students are all but non-existent on the Milton lines, despite making up to a 50 per cent share in

other areas.

And working people are alienated by the service, which stops running before the typical business day ends, said Mr. Prentice.

He suggested that transit hours be amended to 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays with a special student service running from approximately 8 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m.

Saturday service, which is currently bare bones, should be expanded to 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., he said.

"What I'm suggesting is you retrench a little bit," said Mr. Prentice.

He advised axing any service north of Hwy. 401 and transferring the remaining routes into a dial-a-bus system.

• see BUS USE on page 21

Woman sexually assaulted

Police seeking two men who scared off attacker

Halton Regional Police are trying to locate two men who came to the aid of a young girl being sexually assaulted late last month.

The 15-year-old reported that on the evening of November 26 she was grabbed by a male teen and forced behind a townhouse complex at the corner of Laurier Avenue and Commercial Street.

At that location, the attacker began sexually assaulting the girl, but was interrupted by two passersby — who heard her screaming and forced the sus-

pect to flee the area.

He was pursued by the men, but managed to elude them.

The suspect is described as a white male teen.

He's about five-foot-11 with a muscular build and blond hair.

The two helpful men's assistance is needed in the ongoing investigation, police say.

The men are being asked to contact either Halton police Det. Andrea Gaynor or Det. Keith Woudstra at 878-5511, ext. 2418.



IN STOCK LAMPS, AREA RUGS, ACCESSORIES NO GST!

IN STOCK LEATHER NO GST & NO PST!

Deals so incredible, we've made a weekend out of it!



LA-Z-BOY® RECLINERS FROM \$399*

LA-Z-BOY® STATIONARY SOFAS FROM \$599*

LA-Z-BOY® RECLINING SOFAS FROM \$899*

SOLID WOOD BEDROOM / DINING ROOM SETS

NO GST*

BUT HURRY IN BECAUSE WHEN THE WEEK BEGINS, THIS OFFER ENDS.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY ONLY ENJOY TREMENDOUS SAVINGS ON QUALITY LA-Z-BOY FURNITURE.

LA-Z-BOY FURNITURE GALLERIES LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED

OUR BIGGEST FINANCING OFFER OF THE YEAR!



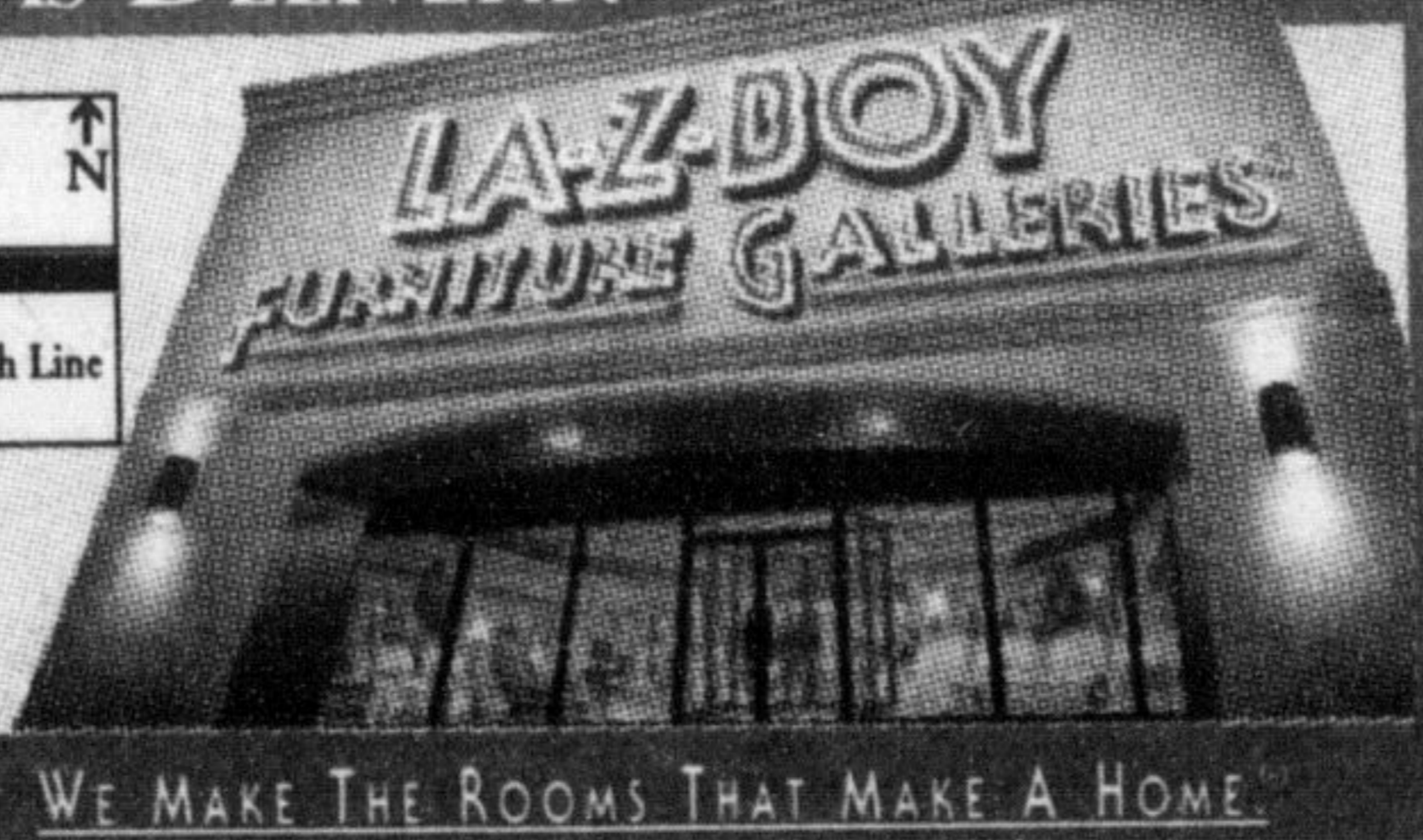
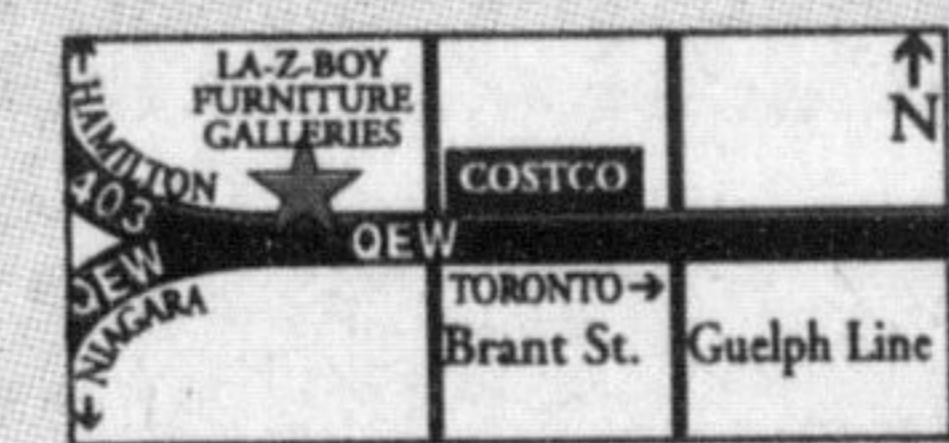
NO INTEREST FOR ONE YEAR. NO DOWN PAYMENT.

100's OF MODELS IN STOCK FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY!

BURLINGTON POWER CENTRE Q.E.W. & BRANT STREET (905) 331-7600

Mon.-Fri. 9:30 am-9 pm, Sat. 9:30 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-5 pm

*Offer does not apply to Dotted/ayer/Clearance merchandise. See store for details. On approved credit only on your La-Z-Boy Charge Card. Applicable taxes, delivery charges and \$29.99 administration fee due at time of purchase. 12 equal monthly payments, commencing 30 days from date of delivery/pick-up. Limited time offer.



WE MAKE THE ROOMS THAT MAKE A HOME.



90 DAYS SAME AS CASH

Vida Spa

Rebecca Moore

Certified Aesthetician & Electrologist



- Skincare
- Body Treatments
- Nail Care
- Waxing Services
- Specialized Treatments
- Electrolysis

NOW OPEN

Facial, manicure & pedicure \$75.00

Create your own package 20% off

Gift Certificates Available

42 Bronte St.S.Milton #14 located at Alter Ego Hair Images (formerly Pat's Hair Studio)

693-1943