

# Parents begging answers

• from **SCHOOL** on page 3 and P.W. Merry in Milton; Fairfield, Pauline Johnson, Champlain, Mountain Gardens and Central in Burlington; and Lorne Skuce, Pine Grove, Queen Elizabeth Park, Linbrook and New Central in Oakville.

New high schools and elementary schools were proposed for all four Halton municipalities.

Northeast Burlington, northwest/north Oakville and urban Milton growth areas were listed as priorities for new schools. Consultants said south Georgetown, which is also expanding, has enough capacity to handle three years' enrollment growth.

Other key consultants recommendations were to re-introduce junior kindergarten, use portable accommodation and finance construction with a debt underwriter.

Burlington trustee Sheila Flook said residents have called her with numerous inquiries. "They've expressed concern that we only have half the picture."

Concerns include where will children go after changes, boundary alterations, how much public input will be allowed and the plan's lack of flexibility.

Ms Flook said the board needs a long-term plan, but she feels time pressure. A long-term plan must be sent to the province by mid-October.

"This should've come last year. It's months behind," she said about the report. "It's cutting into time for public delegations."

The Halton Home and School Association president said the plan is very detailed and agreed it seems like 'a take it or leave it' package.

"If the parents see a long range plan, there may be more acceptance of it," said Yvonne Milwain.

# Fate of land at Meadows up in the air

• from **THERE'S** on page 5 batted around by Town staff, said Ms Reynolds.

But her preference would be to let it remain as it is with the Town as the landlord.

"Our desire is to keep it as a park," said Ms Reynolds.

But that decision would have to be balanced out by costing analyses, since the board will likely ask the full market price for unserved lands capable of being developed.

That would command a higher rate than park land.

Either way, the sale was stalled when the board's attention was captured by other issues, such as potential school closures.

"The board sort of re-prioritized what they were working on," said Ms Reynolds. "We never concluded the purchase of the park."

But the for sale sign is likely to rise again.

And when it does, the Town will still be interested, said Ms Reynolds.

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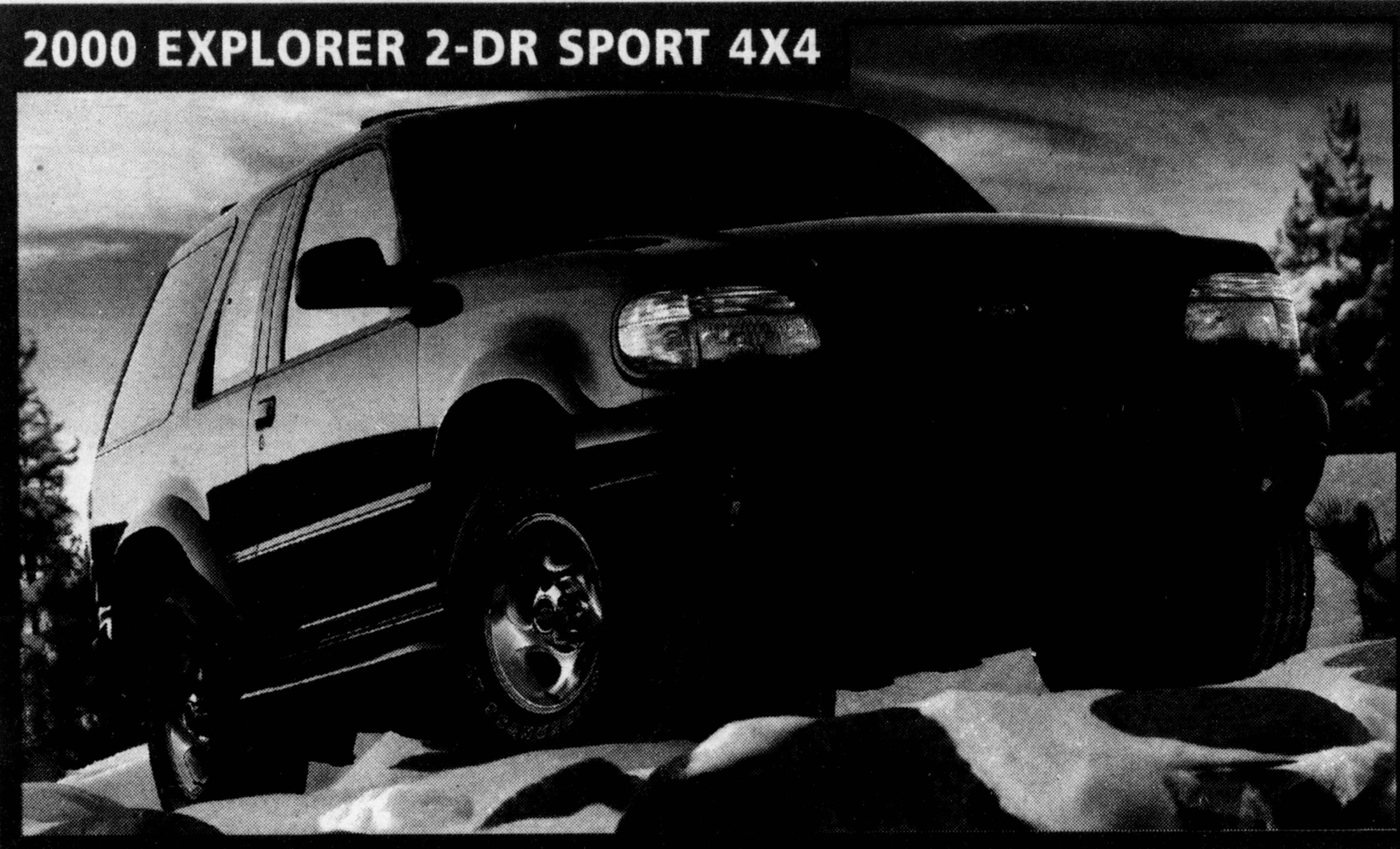
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