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✓ Perennial paradise

Heike Spohr shows off her Roseheath Crescent backyard oasis during Sunday's Milton and District Horticultural Society Garden Tour. The event featured six urban gardens and five from rural Milton.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



✓ Region seriously considering ozone

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

A bid to launch preliminary design work aimed at improving Halton's lake-based water system was given the nod at Wednesday's regional council meeting.

Staff are proposing a \$29 million project to retrofit Halton water plants in order to inject ozone into the system. That would thoroughly disinfect the water while blasting out taste and odour problems caused by increased algae production in Lake Ontario.

If approved at budget time, the project would likely add about \$30 to the average annual water bill.

But Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson wondered if the rates should be raised even higher to ozonate well water also.

"I'm concerned about the optimization of all water. I'd rather be fair to everyone," she said. "If you're going to increase the water bill by \$30, you may as well increase it by another \$10 and have the same service for everyone."

Milton Councillor Rick Malboeuf wondered if treating well water was in the cards. "Is the Region looking at bringing this down the road to the well-based system?"

Currently, soil acts as a filtering agent for well water, said Halton's Planning Director Pat Murphy.

But staff assured north Halton politicians that their system would be

"I can tell you unequivocally, people want something done about the taste and odour of their water."

ANN MULVALE

considered for ozone treatment in the future.

Burlington Councillor Mike Wallace wondered if the costly endeavor is a case of overkill. He asked that other, cheaper options be brought to the table for consideration at budget time. "My point is, when

push comes to shove, if we decide we can't afford this process, we still have another option."

Rather than shell out for what he called the "Jaguar option," Mr. Wallace said "I think we still need the Taurus option before us come budget time."

He argued the trouble with the lake-based water is aesthetic only, having exceeded safety standards.

Many councillors, including Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale, believed the public could be sold on higher costs to have clearer, better-tasting water. "I can tell you unequivocally, people want something done about the taste and odour of their water. I have no hesitation in saying the public are expecting us to do something."

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