



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

TTY: 905-878-1657

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MILTON ON-LINE

http://www.town.milton.on.ca

REQUEST FOR BID

The following bid includes drawings:

REINFORCED ENGINEERED FILL ON THE 1ST LINE AT 20TH SIDEROAD CULVERT

02-213

The following bid does not include drawings:

FIRE TANKER TRUCK

02-221

Sealed bids on forms supplied by the Town of Milton will be received by the Corporate Services Department, Purchasing until 11:00 am local time on:

September 11, 2002

Specifications and forms may be obtained at the Town Hall, 43 Brown Street, Milton, Ontario, Corporate Services Department, Purchasing, during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is a bid document fee of: \$27.00 (\$25.23 + \$1.76 GST) for regular bids or \$54.00 (\$50.46 + \$3.54 GST) for bids with drawings. Payment can be made with cash, cheque, Interac or Visa/Mastercard.

Any inquiries regarding this tender may be directed to Purchasing at (905) 875-5404. If you would prefer that this bid be couriered to you please complete the Request for Bid Document form on the Town's Website: www.town.milton.on.ca. Plan takers and current and upcoming bids are also posted on the website.

Study concludes education system badly underfunded

BY TIM WHITNELL

Special to The Champion

An independent study of provincial government funding of education concludes that the majority of Ontario's public school boards, including Halton's, are severely underfunded.

The statistics generated by the Ottawa-based Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), via an article published recently by the organization's executive board member Hugh Mackenzie, indicates per student net funding is \$2 billion less than it should be under the Ontario government.

Mr. Mackenzie's study, entitled 'Cutting Classes: Elementary and Secondary Education Funding in Ontario 2002-03', utilized current and historical data from the Ministry of Education. It makes funding projections for the upcoming school year for all 72 publicly-funded boards.

Mr. Mackenzie says that since the government ordered the consolidation of school boards in Ontario and took control of their funding, implementing a funding formula in 1997, more total dollars have been put into education.

However, he concludes that the net effect is a massive general

"I think it was a very thorough analysis of the funding that has been taken out of education. In that sense his work did a service to school boards in Ontario."

JOE BIRETT

underfunding of the education system, after factoring in rises in student enrolment and related costs such as teacher hirings, board employee contracts and salary grid considerations.

The study specifically states that the funding formula has left the Halton District School Board (HDSB) \$660 below what it should be receiving in per student funding. That amounts to a \$29-million shortfall since 1997, according to the report.

The HDSB administration repeatedly stated this past spring that it was in need of about \$4 million more in order to meet the needs of its projected 2002-03 budget of about \$289 million.

Officials reluctantly recommended chopping more than \$4 million in personnel and programs, since no further funding was forthcoming. Trustees then equally reluctantly passed a balanced budget, unlike the public boards in Toronto, Ottawa-Carleton and Hamilton, which have defied the government.

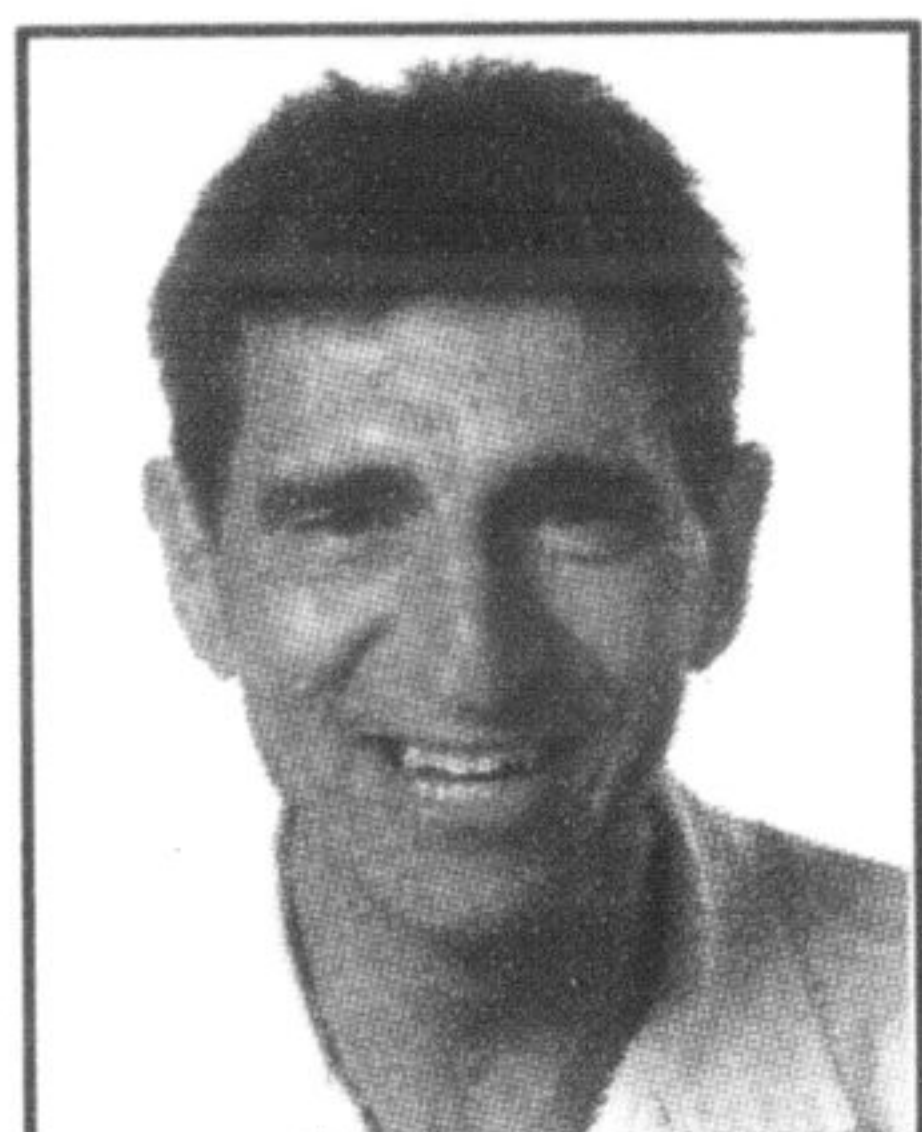
The CCPA report states the Toronto public board, the largest in the province, is \$544 million — or \$1,979 per student — below its needed funding. Hamilton is \$26 million shy (\$465 per student) and Ottawa-Carleton \$111 million short (\$1,508 per student).

At the other end of the spectrum, the CCPA says Catholic boards in general have benefited from the introduction of the funding formula to the tune of an average net gain of \$50 per student per board, compared to a net loss of \$875 per public school student in Ontario.

Halton's Catholic board has gained \$65 per student in government funding since 1997, says the study. However, that figure is grossly misleading, says the local separate school board's business superintendent Joe Birett.

"I read the report and phoned Mr. Mackenzie to respond directly to him on the point that Catholic boards fared better than public

• see MACKENZIE on page 18



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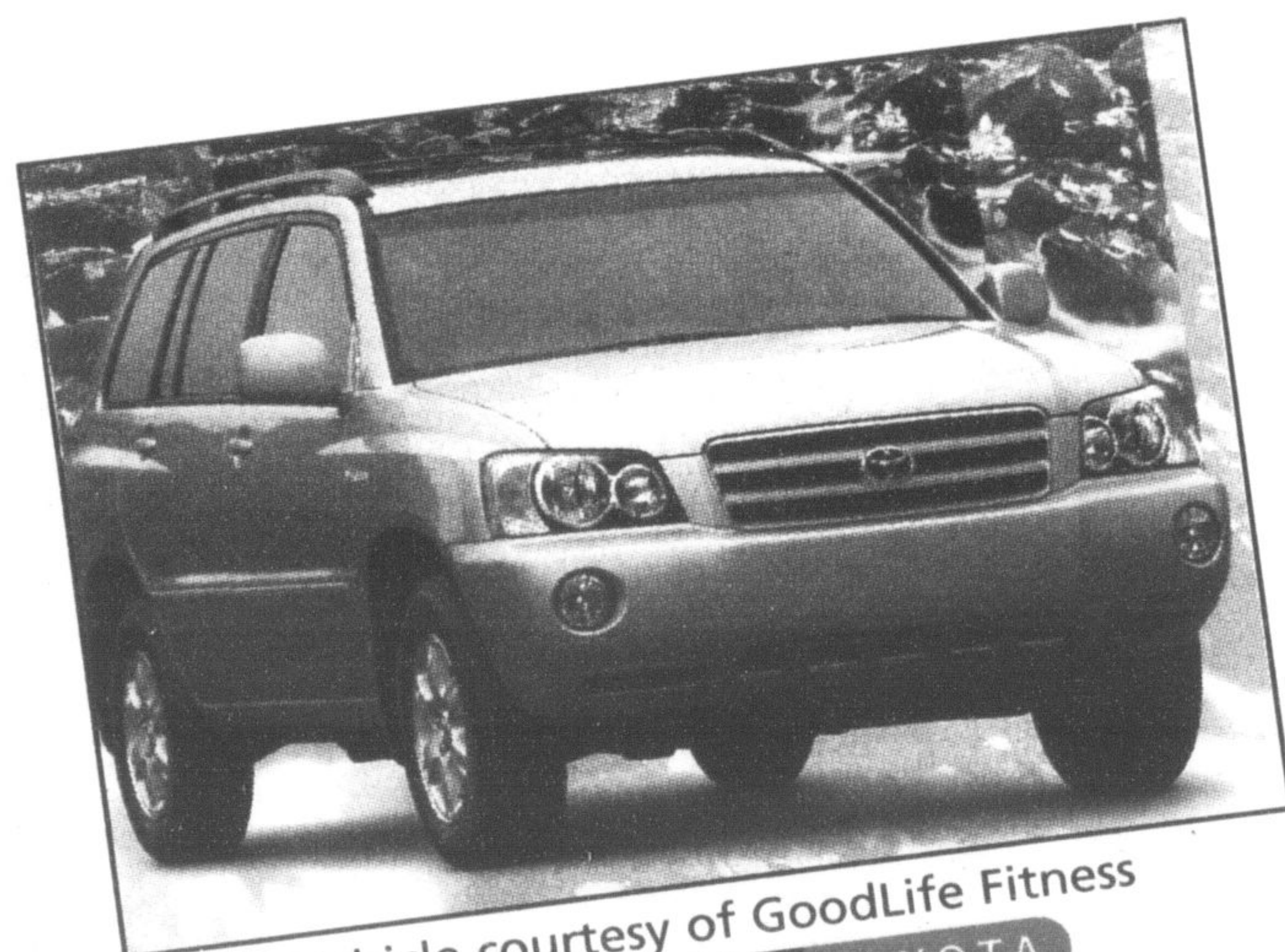
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