

Most residents don't want parking bylaw change: report

By **JASON MISNER**

The Champion

Not only did most residents on 19 streets vote against lifting the Town's three-hour on-street parking bylaw, many said doing so risks making things worse, according to a report released by Town staff this week.

The report, given to councillors at Monday night's community services committee meeting, concluded residents were

concerned that lifting three-hour parking would turn streets into virtual parking lots or would impede snow removal trucks and make it hard for road maintenance crews to do their jobs.

The report was based on a process approved by local councillors last fall.

The process allows for residents to request that town officials determine if there's a basis to pursue having the three-

hour parking bylaw on town streets lifted for permanent parking.

Residents must first ask staff to determine if there are safety concerns that would prohibit permanent parking on their street. If the staff person doesn't see any legitimate safety reason for disallowing the request for permanent parking, a questionnaire is sent to houses along the given street.

The questionnaire asks residents if they favour getting rid of three-hour parking for permanent parking.

In order for the three-hour parking bylaw to be lifted, 51 per cent of the total number of houses on the street must agree to having the bylaw replaced with 24-hour parking.

A staff information report released to councillors at Monday's community services committee meeting showed that 19 streets have requested a review of three-hour parking since last fall. There are a total of 300 streets in Milton.

The report concluded there wasn't a majority consent to lift the three-hour parking bylaw.

The report stated the highest level of support to lifting three-hour parking came from Gowling Terrace. It showed 40 per cent of residents wanted permanent parking.

Comments on the questionnaire included:

- People should clean out their garages instead of using it for storage.
- People from nearby streets might park on the street where the three-hour ban has been lifted.
- People may leave cars for days on the streets.

Based on the results, Councillor John Challinor says Miltonians are pretty happy with the town's parking situation.

"The vast majority of Miltonians are happy with the way things are," he said in a later interview. "But we have a few problems."

The Town is considering allowing a special temporary exemption that would lift the three-hour ban only for one night. The idea would be to allow guests to park overnight.

Town staff said residents moving from municipalities like Brampton and Mississauga are used to having this exemption. Staff also noted allowing the exemption might cut down on the number of requests to lift three-hour parking.

This potential exemption is being looked into as part of the Town's review of parking dilemmas in new subdivision areas in Milton.

To address the problems, the Town sent out 200 random surveys in March asking residents things like if they're having trouble parking, how many vehicles they own and what kind they are.

Staff figured there were three key problem areas when it comes to parking, including residents not using their garages because they use it for storage or they aren't large enough; residents storing trailers in their driveways; and on average, residents having more than two vehicles.

A report detailing the survey results could come to the Town's administration and planning committee meeting Tuesday night.

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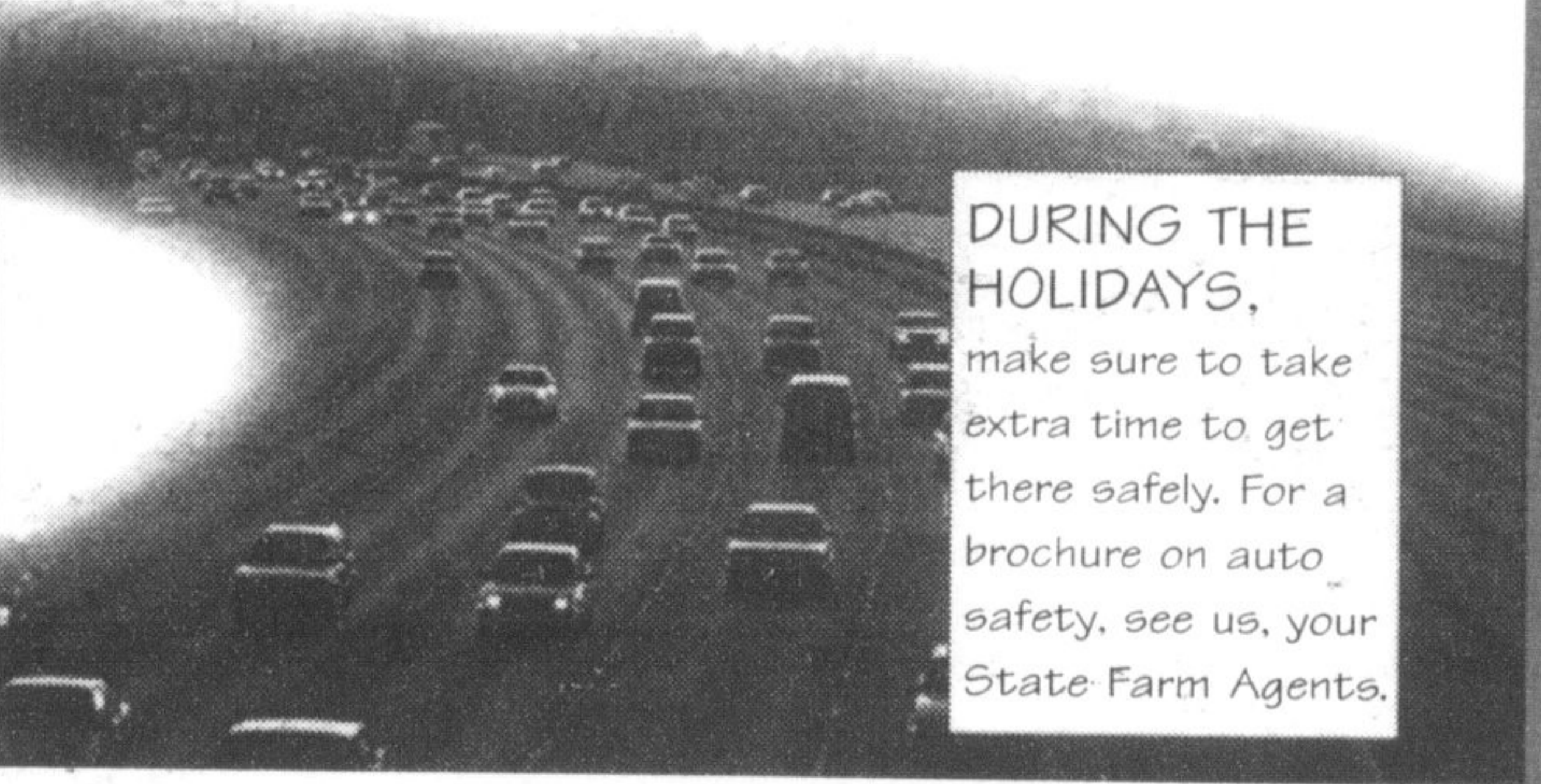
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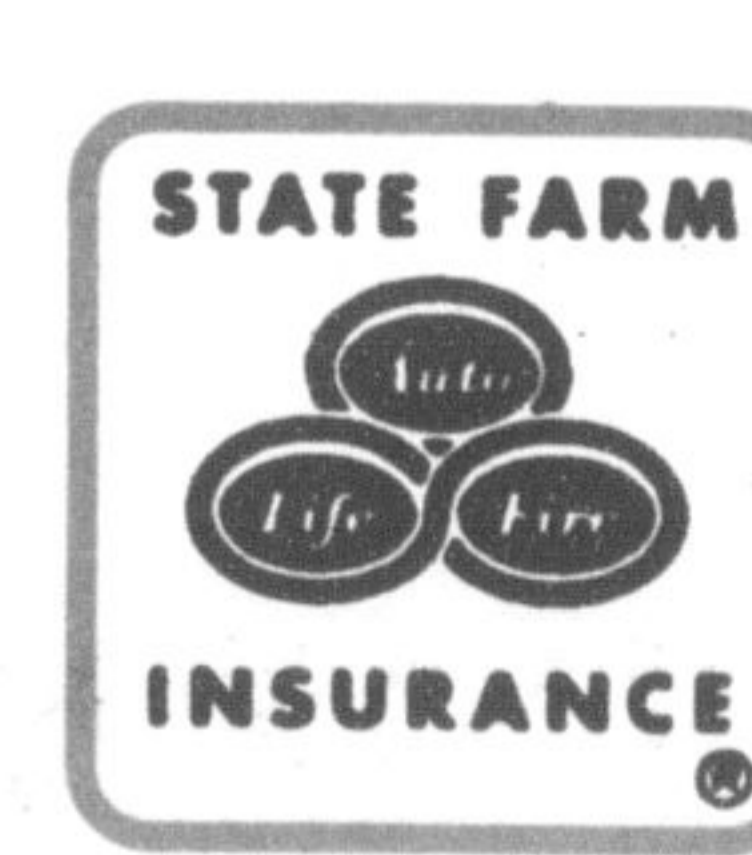
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