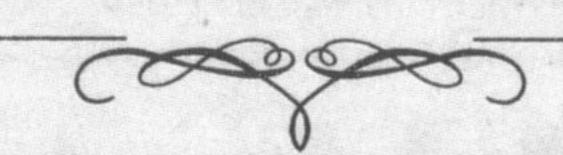


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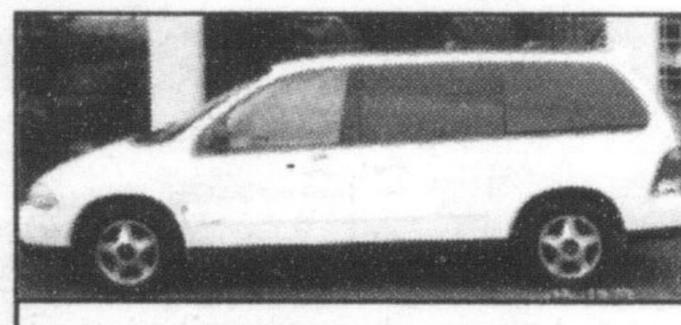
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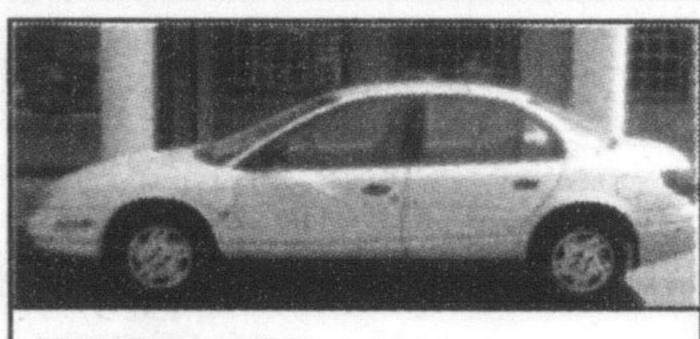
| 2003 GMC Sierra SLT Crew Cab Heavy Duty 1/2 Ton 4x4 (only 19,483km!!)    | Now \$36,995 |
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| 2002 Lincoln LS (only 62,143km!!)  | Now \$23,995 |
| 2002 Pontiac Grand Am SE (only 78,658km!!)                               | Now \$12,695 |
| 2002 Pontiac Transport Montana (only 65,187km!!)                         | Now \$14,995 |
| 2002 Toyota Rav 4 AWD 'C' Pkg (only 44,029km!!)                          | Now \$24,995 |
| 2001 Chev Blazer LS 4x4 (only 58,791km!!)                                | Now \$17,995 |
| 2001 Chev Venture LS Extended (only 73-526km!!)                          | Now \$16,995 |
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| 2001 Ford Escape XLT 4x4 (only 87,112km!!)                               | Now \$19,995 |
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| 1999 Olds Aurora (only 93,676km!!)                                       | Now \$13,995 |
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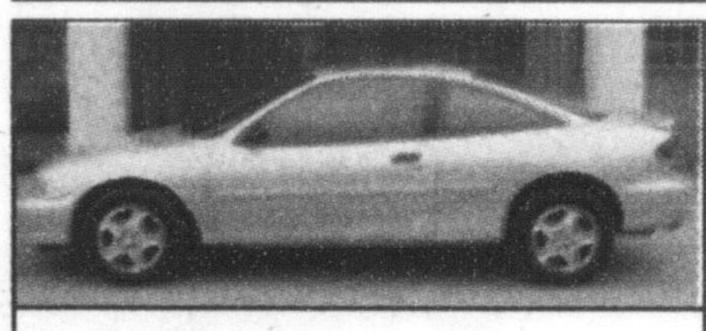
2003 Toyota Avalon XLS (only 58,000km! leather, moonroof) Now \$33,995



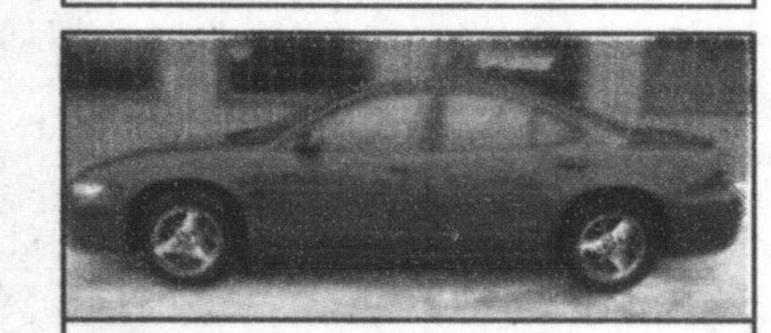
2002 Ford Windstar Sport (only 74,000km! quad seats, rear air) Now \$16,995



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## Town's plowing budget snowed under

By JASON MISNER

The Champion

Old Man Winter is beating up on the Town of Milton's 2004 snow plowing budget.

The Town has budgeted \$780,000 for snow plowing/removal duties that include salt and sand costs, and half of it has already been spent thanks to major snow falls in January.

"That's definitely high," said Paul Cripps, Milton's engineering director.

The \$1.1 million winter control budget, which operates on a calendar year, includes other costs like street sweeping in the spring and equipment costs like fuel, in addition to plowing and removal.

The Town's snow-plowing army consists of 15 trucks that plow and spread salt/sand along 530 km of local and regional roads. The Town also has 11 contractors to use, if needed.

Everyone has been working hard to clear the white stuff as quickly as possible, Mr. Cripps said. "That whole month was very, very busy," he said, noting some workers start shifts as early as 4 a.m. "We're hoping Mother Nature co-operates."

Shè hasn't so far.

A big reason the winter control budget is feeling snowed under is that snow accumulation in Milton last month was nearly double the average.

Camil Laprise, an Environment Canada forecaster, said readings at Toronto's Pearson airport, which would apply to Milton, show 63.2 cm fell in January compared to an average of 32.3 cm.

Also, temperatures were almost three degrees colder than normal.

Other factors impacting the winter control budget this year, Mr. Cripps said, is the Town is responsible for 35 km more of roads due to growth and through downloading from Halton Region. Also, it's had to regularly plow snow that has drifted onto roads, mostly in rural areas where there are open fields.

"There's a tremendous amount of drifting up there," Mr. Cripps said. "The temperature has been so cold the snow is light and it drifts a lot. Trucks were going up there (in Nassagaweya) 24 hours a day."

Warmer temperatures recently have allowed snow to become more compact, resulting in less drifting.

Heavy snow falls earlier last year and a long winter were factors in the Town's 2003 winter control budget ballooning by an extra \$470,000. The difference was covered by reserves.

When it's time to plow, the Town has a priority list with 11 identified routes — including the rural and urban areas — that first get attention. They include the main arterial roadways like Guelph Line, Main Street, Steeles Avenue and Trafalgar Road. Next on the list are side streets and secondary rural roads like Eighth Line.

Also, the Town only salts sidewalks in the urban core area and sidewalks around schools. The rest are the responsibility of property owners.

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