

Region continues to enjoy high quality of life: study

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The document also showed extremely low levels of voter participation in municipal elections, with only about 30 per cent of Halton voters taking part. This number was considered average amongst the other areas surveyed.

On a more positive note, Halton demonstrated the lowest illiteracy level out of the 20 municipalities. Only three per cent of the population aged 15 or over had less than a grade 9 education in 2001, down from the approximate 5.5 per cent in 1991.

Overall, the report indicated Halton residents continue to enjoy a high quality of life with low unemployment, high educational attainment, good health and low crime rates.

Quality of Life Technical Team Chair Brenda Hogg explained the purpose of the research is to provide citizens and policy makers with objective data on the quality

of life in Canadian communities.

"We hope that this information will help persuade political leaders and policy makers in all orders of government of the urgent need to work together across jurisdictional lines to respond to a rapidly-changing Canada," she said.

Last year, FCM released two reports in the Quality of Life series — a highlights report in April and the 'Income, Shelter and Necessities Report' in November.

The latter showed the income gap between higher and lower income households in Halton increased over the 10-year study period and that homelessness is very much a reality in the region. For more information on the 'Dynamic Societies and Social Change Report,' visit www.fcm.ca.

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Halton's demographic profile at a glance

- The region's population increased by 20 per cent from 1991 to 2001, going from 313,135 people to 375,229.
- New immigrants arriving in Halton from 1991 to 2001 grew by 20 per cent. Compared to other surveyed communities and the GTA, this change in growth is relatively low.
- Halton residents show increasing numbers with university degrees, from 16 per cent in 1991 to 22 per cent in 2001.
- The employment rate for Halton women rose by one per cent to 63.5 per cent, with more participation (by per cent) from women with children 0 to 12 years old.
- In constant 1990 dollars, median family

income was among the highest in Canada, at \$64,374 in 1991 and \$68,518 by 2001, marking a 6.4 per cent increase.

• For single males however, median income declined slightly, from \$35,722 in 1991 to \$35,374 by 2001 — a drop of one per cent.

• More people became home owners over the decade from 1991 to 2001, from 74 per cent to 79 per cent, while renter households declined, from 26 per cent to 21 per cent.

• Thirty-nine per cent of renters paid more than 30 per cent of their household income on shelter in 2000, while 16 per cent paid more than 50 per cent.



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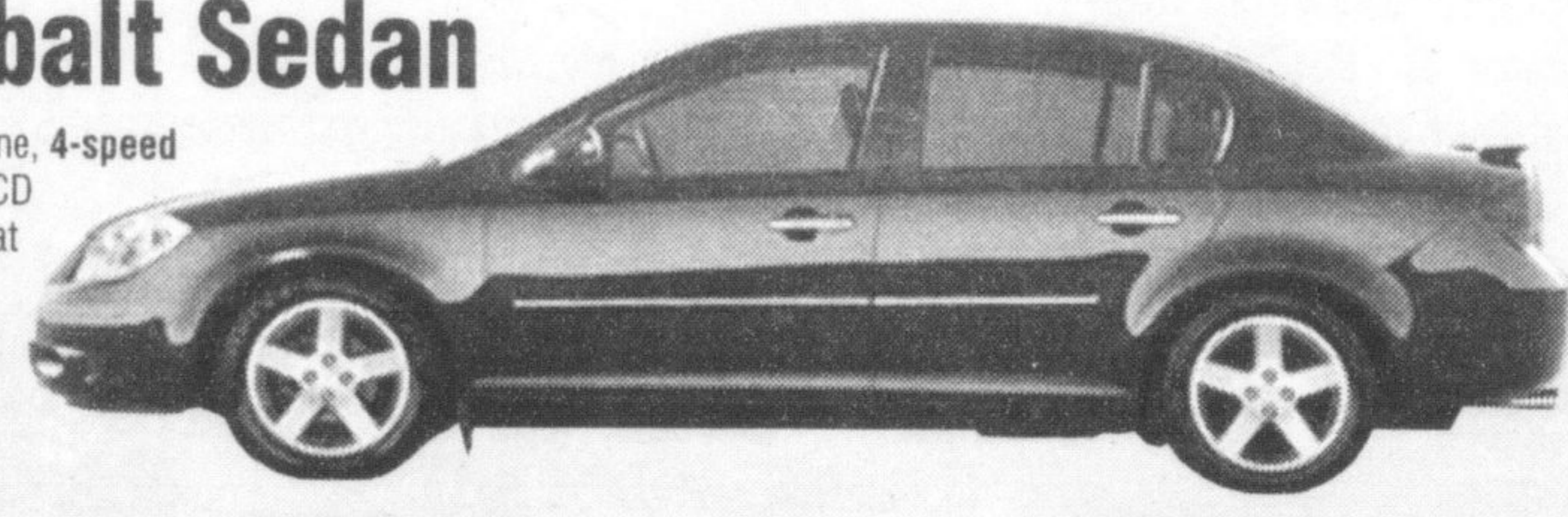
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