

Councillors defer proposed town bylaw to protect historic trees

Heritage Milton says some trees have been needlessly destroyed

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Concerns were voiced at a recent Town committee meeting that introducing a bylaw to protect individual trees on private property in urban Milton would open a can of worms better left closed.

Those concerns came in response to a staff report presented to the committee on the feasibility of introducing a bylaw prohibiting the injury or destruction of trees in urban Milton.

Wards 1 and 3 Councillor Barry Lee said implementing such a bylaw would take away landowners' rights.

"We're looking at trees on private property. What do people who own those trees think of that?" he questioned at Monday's administration and planning standing committee.

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He raised several hypothetical scenarios, asking what would happen if someone had a tree he was unable to remove because it was a heritage tree and then it fell through

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a neighbour's roof.

The report went before the committee after council asked for the report in June. This came in response to a request by Heritage Milton after two recent incidents in which trees were "needlessly destroyed," the report reads.

Mel Iovio, the Town's director of planning and development, recommended in the report that the matter be referred for consideration to the Character Area Study, scheduled for 2008.

The Character Area is defined in the Official Plan as that around Milton's historic downtown.

Such a plan is intended to determine and report on the characteristics that make the

area unique. It can include factors such as architectural styles and also natural features, like trees.

The plan can provide protection of these features under the Planning Act and "provide a sound basis for the passing of Municipal Act bylaws for that purpose," the report states.

Mr. Iovio stressed the importance of public consultation in the planning process.

The two other approaches to tree protection discussed in the report are through the Municipal Act and the Heritage Act. Disadvantages of the former include the requirement of additional human resources, more regulation over the entire urban area and "inconvenience and cost for those who have regulated trees of no interest," the report reads.

As for protection under the Heritage Act, one of the disadvantages is the criteria is hard to meet, making it difficult to protect many trees, the report says.

Councillors voted to defer the matter to an unspecified date.

"I'm somewhat hesitant about moving ahead and saying 'Let's go for it.' I can just see a whole new bureaucracy revolving around this," said Mayor Gord Krantz.

If the destruction of trees in urban Milton is forbidden, some new homeowners might

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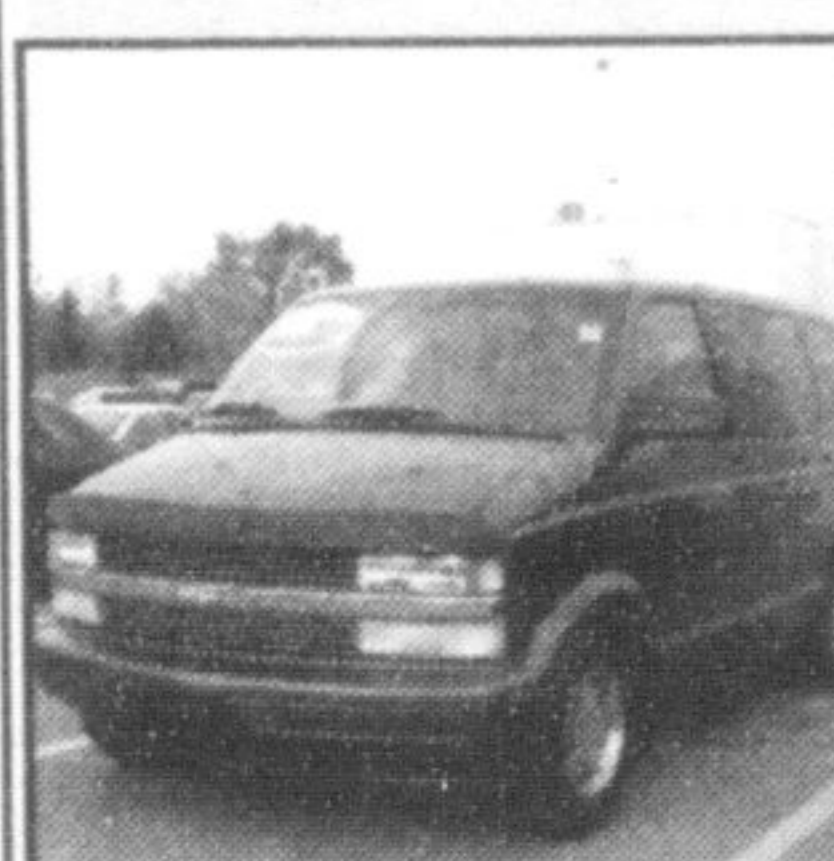
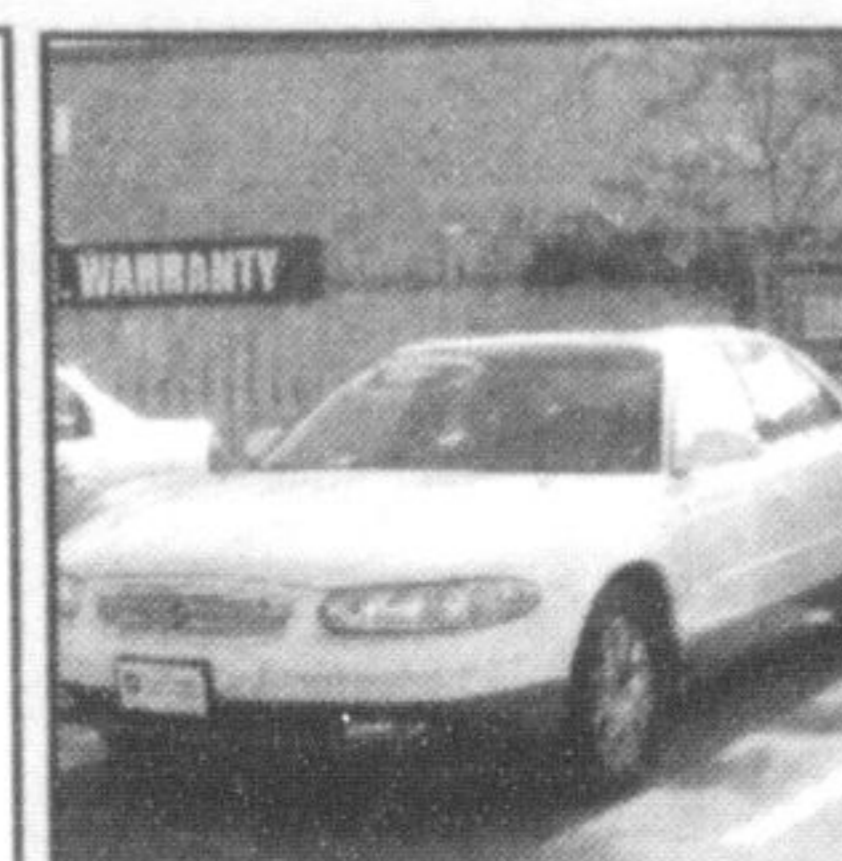
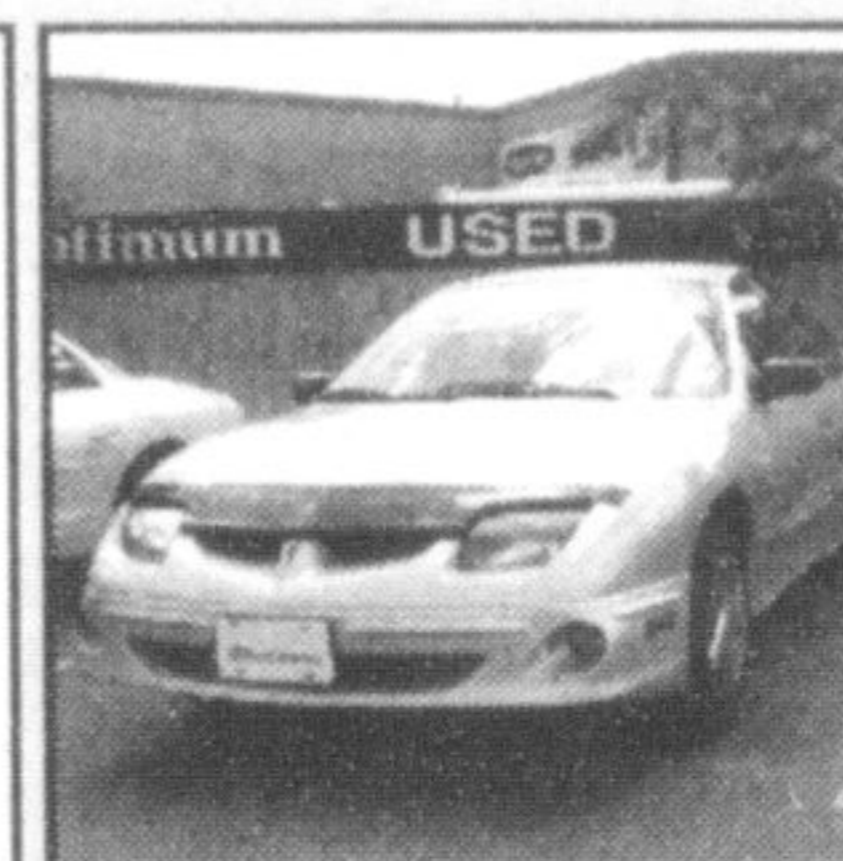




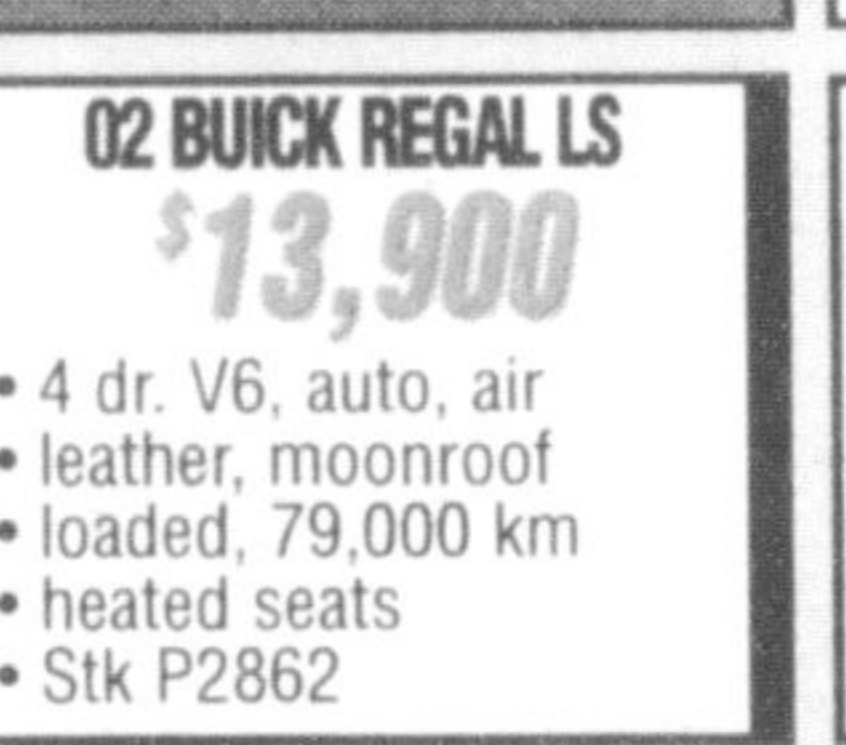



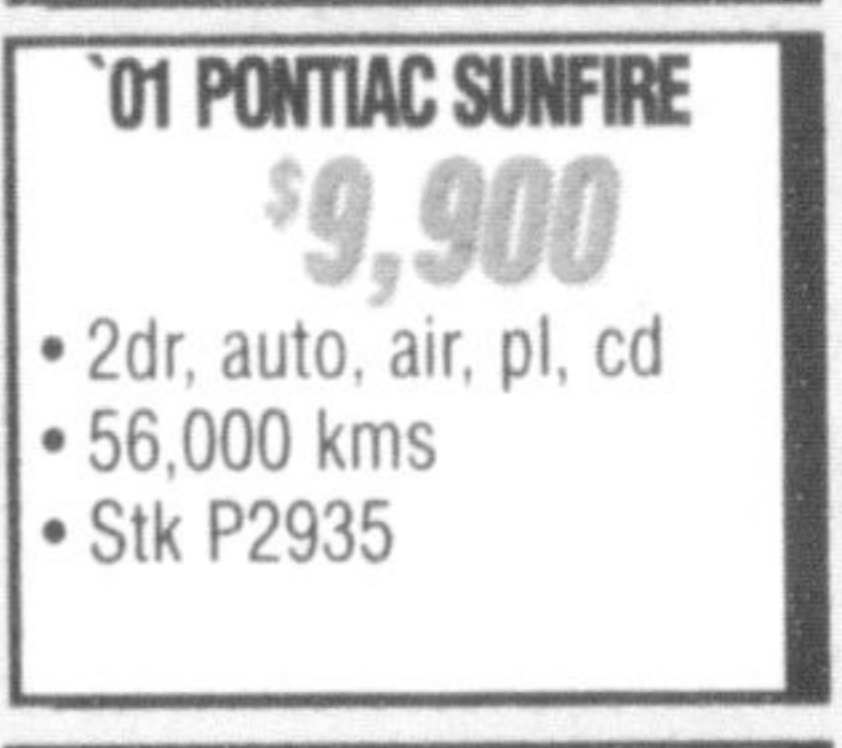



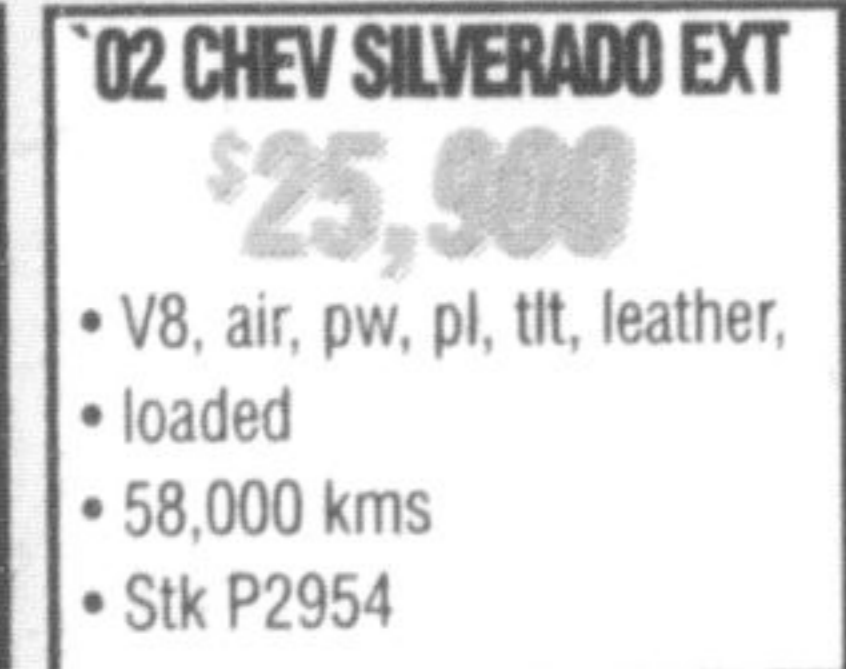
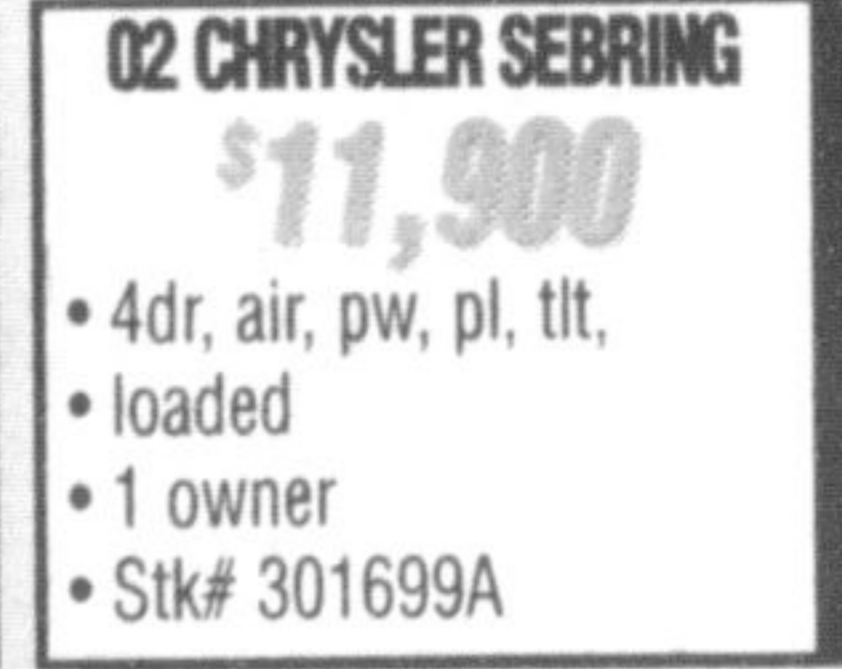


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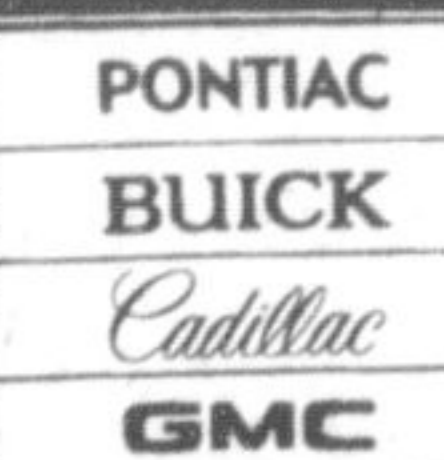
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