



Helping hand

Milton District High School student Jessica Lyons was recently presented with a new electric scooter purchased through fundraising efforts at the school. She's seen here with longtime friend and fundraising volunteer Caitlin Robidoux. The scooter will allow Jessica to be more independent in her post-secondary endeavours.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Region gets top credit rating

Once again, Halton Region is tops — financially speaking, that is.

Standard and Poor's Rating Services recently reaffirmed Halton Region's AAA credit rating based on the agency's 2005 annual review.

Halton Region has maintained an AAA credit for 16 consecutive years. In 2004, it was one of only seven Canadian municipalities to receive the rating from the agency.

"Standard and Poor's rating reflects Halton's sound financial position and it also reflects the stability and strong financial management of our local municipalities," said Joyce Savoline, regional chairman. "Halton residents can have confidence in our strong fiscal management, which is based on responsible policies and realistic practices."

The AAA rating is the highest credit rating available to any issuer of long-term debt in North America. The rating allows the borrowing of funds at the lowest possible interest rates.

"With two recognized credit agencies affirming

our financial practices, Halton is able to continue investing responsibly in our infrastructure to ensure the safety of our water, manage our roads network and prepare for technologies to effectively manage our waste," said CAO Brent Marshall.

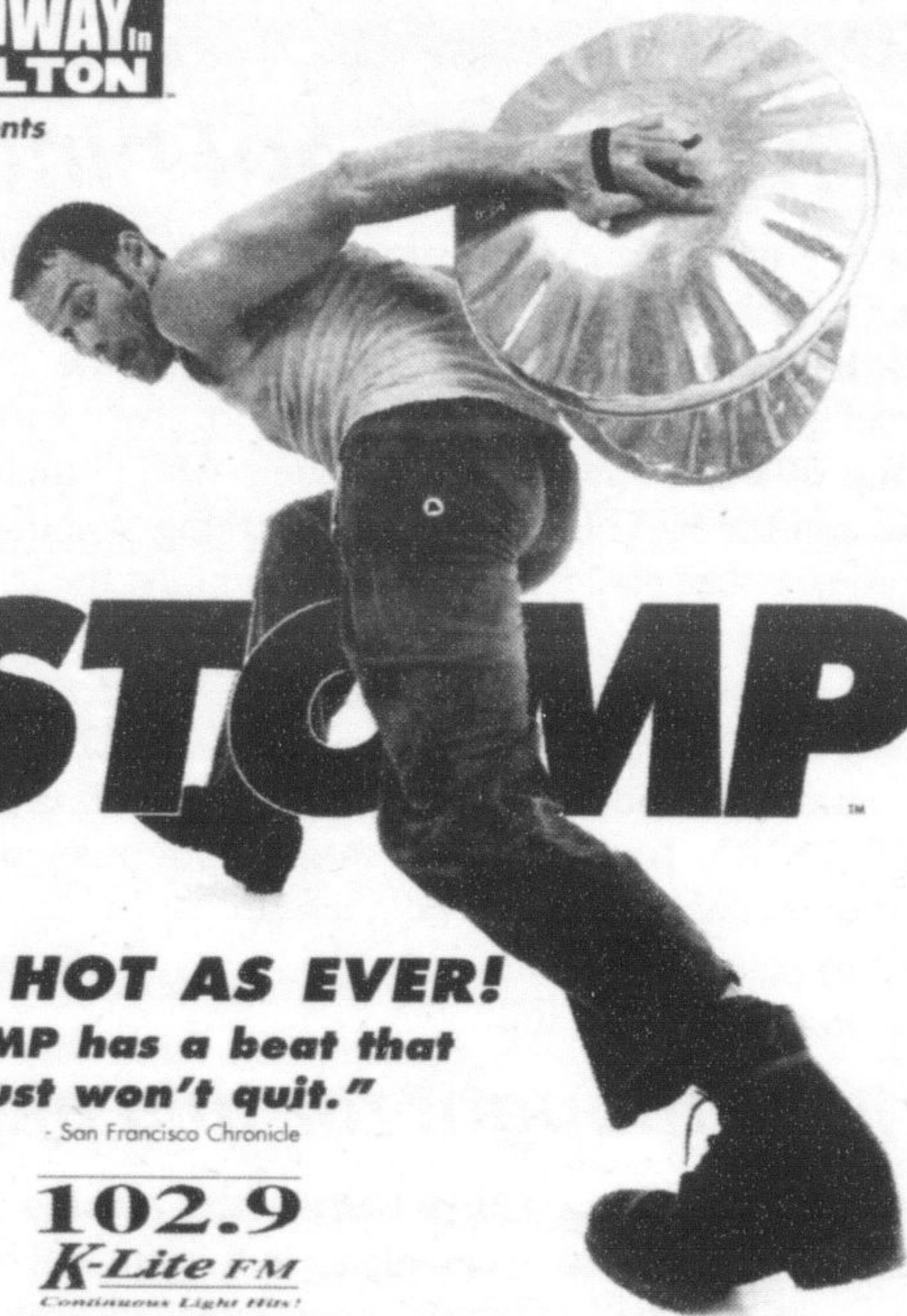
Recognizing the Region's plans to increase its debt load in the next few years to fund large capital infrastructure projects, the agency noted since the majority of the funding will come from internal cash reserves, the Region is expected to remain a strong net creditor.

It noted, "The Region's economic advantages and performance are solid, and prospects for the future look very good."

Jane MacCaskill, commissioner of corporate services said the credit rating is a result of "the long-term perspective Halton takes in its financial planning."

Standard and Poor is the second independent agency this year to review Halton's credit rating.

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<p>2002 PONTIAC MONTANA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 passenger • loaded <p>STK #P2985</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$11,800</p>	<p>1998 CHEV ASTRO VAN EXT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Pass. • Loaded <p>STK #P2934</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$9,900</p>	<p>2001 CHEVROLET MALIBU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V6 • 4 Dr. <p>STK #154955A</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$9,900</p>	<p>2002 PONTIAC SUNFIRE <i>Only 9,000 kms</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 dr. • auto • air <p>STK #P2946A</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$10,900</p>
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<p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>2001 PONTIAC SUNFIRE <i>air/loaded</i> STK# 143473A \$7,900</p> <p>2003 CHEV CAVALIER <i>4 dr./auto/no air</i> STK# 233268B \$7,900</p> <p>2000 PONTIAC GRAND AM <i>4 dr./auto/air</i> STK# P2926A \$7,900</p> <p>2000 BUICK LESABRE CUSTOM V6 <i>loaded</i> STK# 173796A \$8,900</p> <p>1999 PONTIAC GRAND AM <i>4dr./auto/air/loaded</i> STK# P2892A \$8,900</p>	<p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>2001 PONTIAC GRAND AM SE <i>4 dr./loaded/71K</i> STK# P2878 \$9,900</p> <p>2003 PONTIAC SUNFIRE <i>4 dr./auto/42K</i> STK# P2912 \$9,900</p> <p>2000 BUICK REGAL LS <i>1 owner/52K</i> STK# 333040A \$10,900</p> <p>1999 VW GOLF <i>4dr./4cyl/loaded</i> STK#081853A \$10,900</p> <p>2002 PONTIAC GRAND AM <i>4 dr./auto/4 cyl.</i> STK# P2970A \$11,900</p>	<p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p>	<p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p> <p>◆ SAVE NOW ◆</p>
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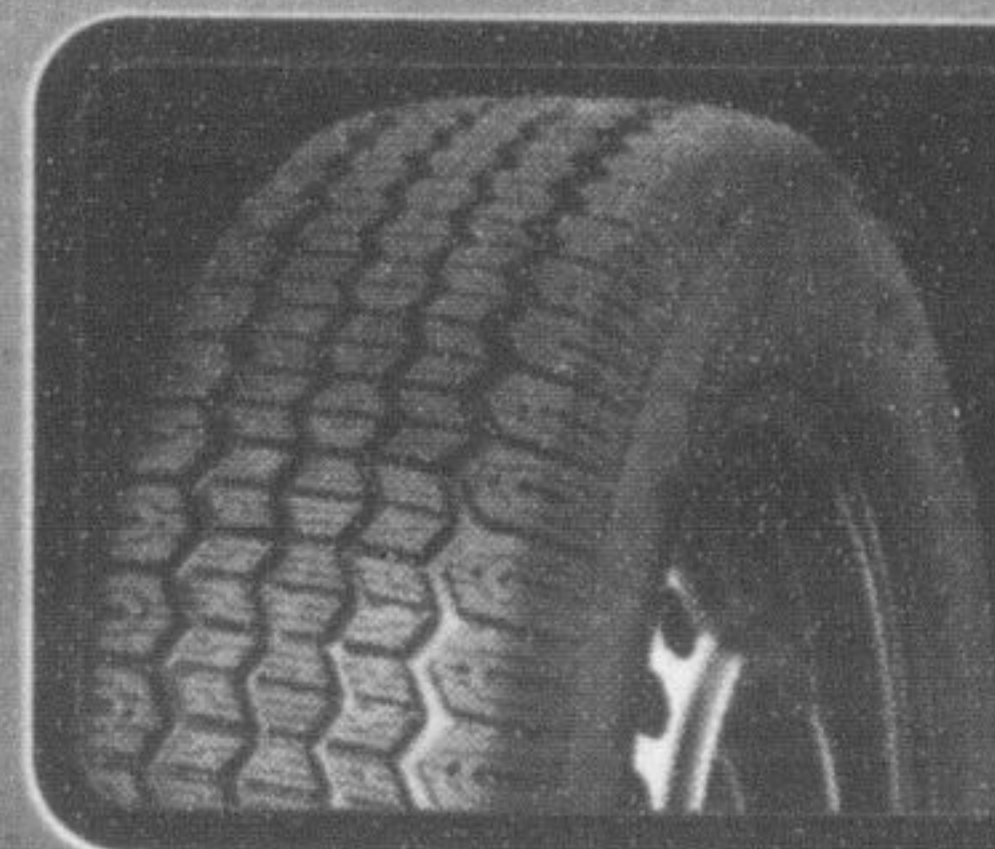
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