

Public supports strategy: Region

• from PROPOSED on page A1
There must be a positive cost/benefit to the taxpayer and demonstrated superiority over alternate approaches."

Information presented at the open house shows the Region expects a Halton-wide GreenCart program would cost about \$6 million a year, or an additional \$23 on the average Miltonian's tax bill based on a \$250,000 assessment.

Ellis argued that garbarators — in-sink garbage disposal units — should be considered as an economic alternative to the Green Cart, and household waste incineration should also be looked at in a feasibility study.

Meanwhile, Milton resident Bob Beyette is calling for the Region to switch its waste management system from one that's funded by taxes to a user pay service — an option that's listed as a 'future consideration' in the strategy.

"Clearly, there is no other answer," he said. "It's (the cur-

rent system) not fair to those who practice conservation."

He said he also thinks the public needs to know the "true cost" of garbage management, noting it's largely subsidized by the industrial/commercial sector and those who pay higher property taxes.

A breakdown put forward by Region staff does show that 33 per cent of the current waste management program is funded by local industry, with the balance coming from residential property taxes. This costs the average Miltonian \$80 per year.

Halton Director of Waste Management Rob Rivers said the Region is trying to make residents more aware of the financial impacts associated with waste management.

If Halton switched to a full user pay system, the Region's financial gurus estimate it would cost the typical local household \$199 each year.

For garbage collection only, and disposal at the landfill and recycling being covered by

taxes, it would add up to around \$109 each year for Miltonians. And for garbage collection and disposal to be covered by a user pay system and recycling funded by taxes, the average area household would spend a little over \$137 per year.

While Beyette and Ellis are calling for changes to the strategy, Rivers said the Region has primarily received positive feedback from residents on the document.

"For the most part, people are in support of the strategy," he said, noting a theme that's been conveyed by residents is that they're happy the Region is being proactive when it comes to waste.

It's anticipated that staff will report back to council soon on the results of the public consultation and bring forward a final strategy for approval.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com.

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• from AWARD on page A1
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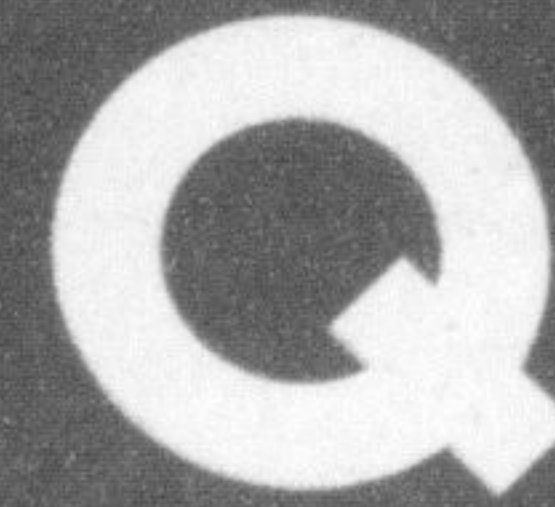
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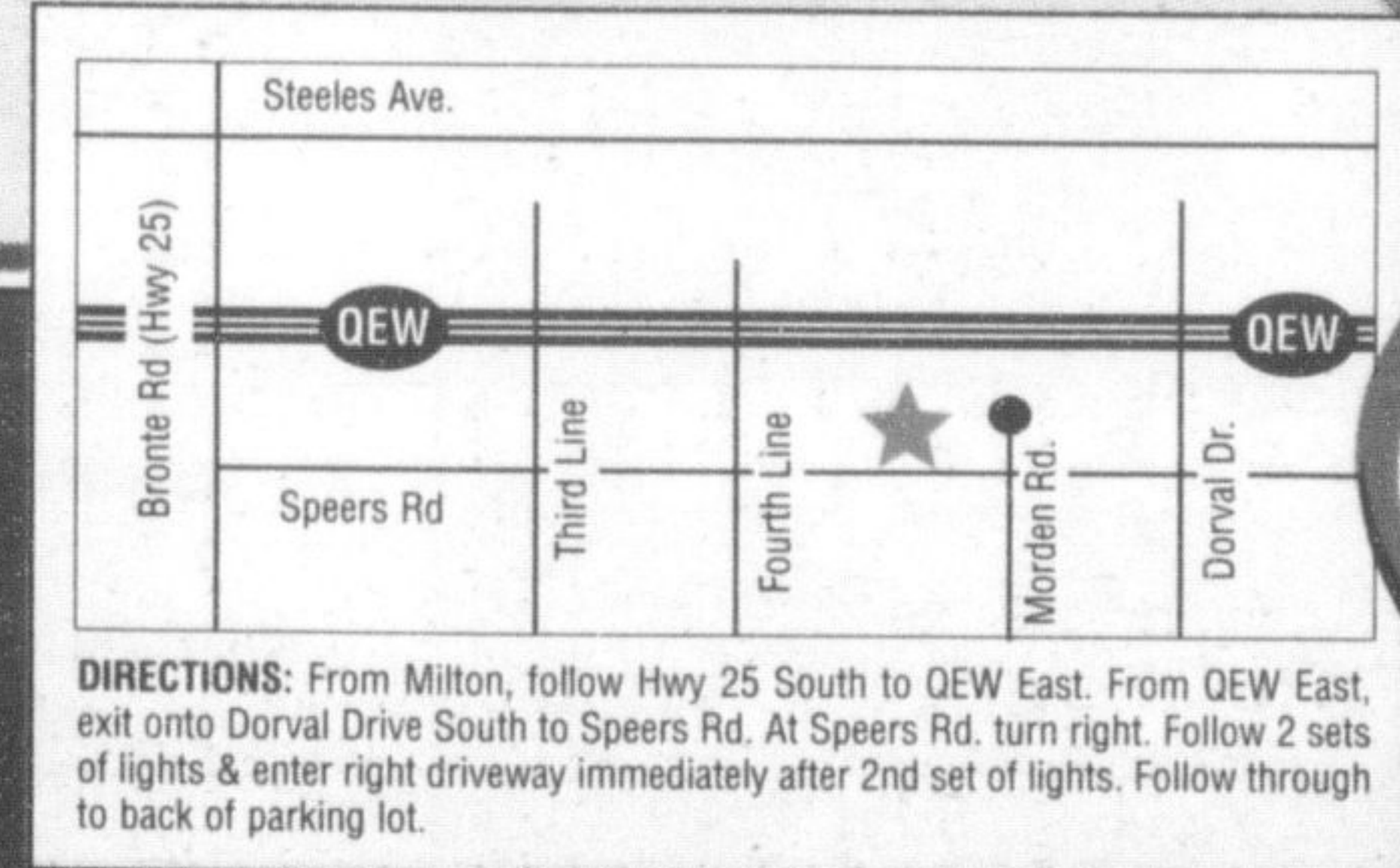
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