

Region on 18-year streak for top credit rating

For the 18th year in a row, Halton Region is tops when it comes to credit ratings.

Independent ratings agency Moody's Investors Service has again confirmed the Region's AAA credit rating — the highest available to any issuer of long-term debt in North America.

"Halton's AAA credit rating is good news for residents because it means that the Region and the local municipalities can borrow money at the lowest possible interest rates," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr.

"Thanks to our prudent fiscal management and our commitment to multi-year planning, we can pass our lower costs on to our taxpayers."

The Moody's report recognizes the Region's ability to leverage its financial rating when it comes to providing services to the community.

Halton's balanced financial profile, including dependable cash flows, predictable operating expenditures and careful response to emerging cost pressures, supports the Region's high credit rating.

"Halton has been recognized year after year for its outstanding credit rating and strong financial management," said Jane MacCaskill, acting CAO and regional treasurer.

"The AAA rating allows Halton to continue to deliver essential services to Halton residents and businesses and confirms our balanced approach to long-term capital planning."

According to Moody's, Halton's cost pressures have been managed with

modest tax increases, strong assessment growth and spending reallocations.

Moody's attached a stable outlook to

the Region's profile, indicating their confidence in its ability to maintain this rating in the future.

In addition, transfers from the feder-

al government, including the GST rebate and federal gas tax funding, will help moderate the impact of financial pressures over the next few years.

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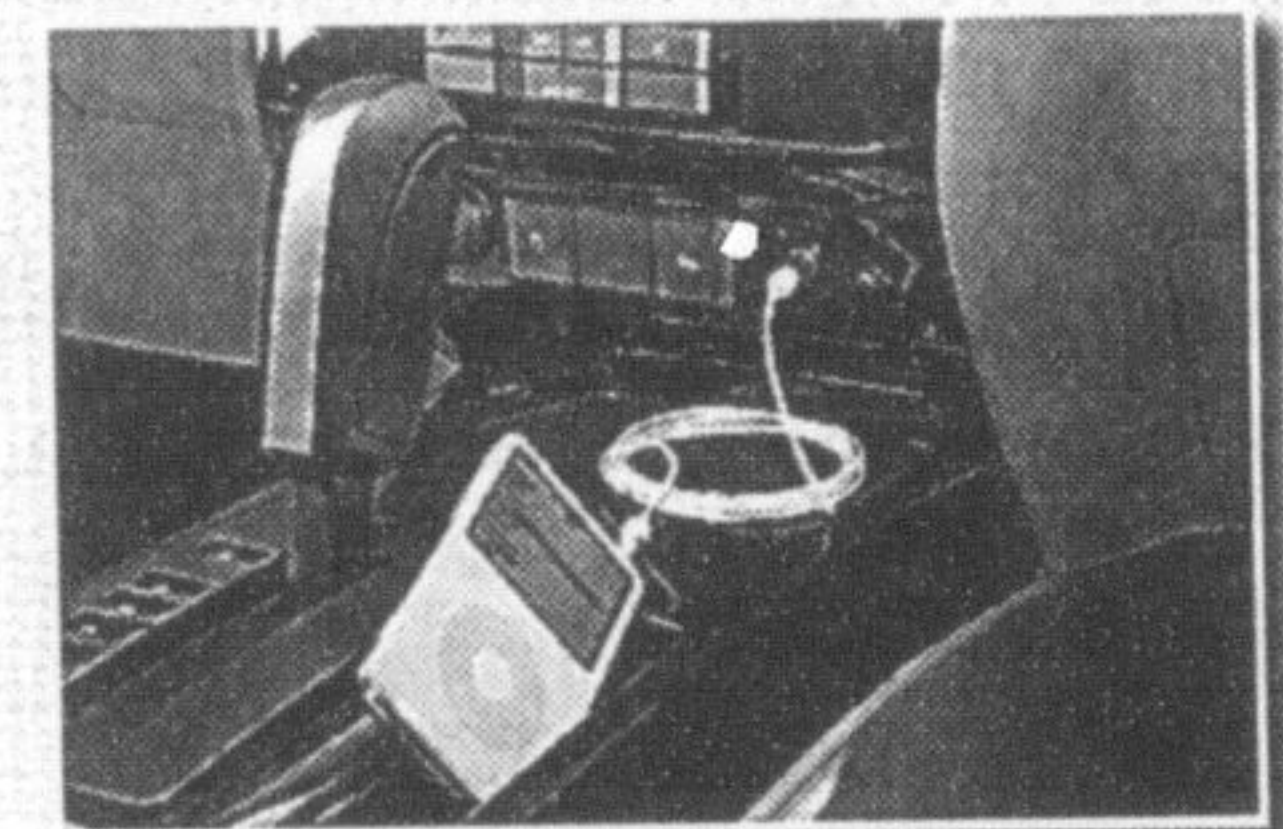
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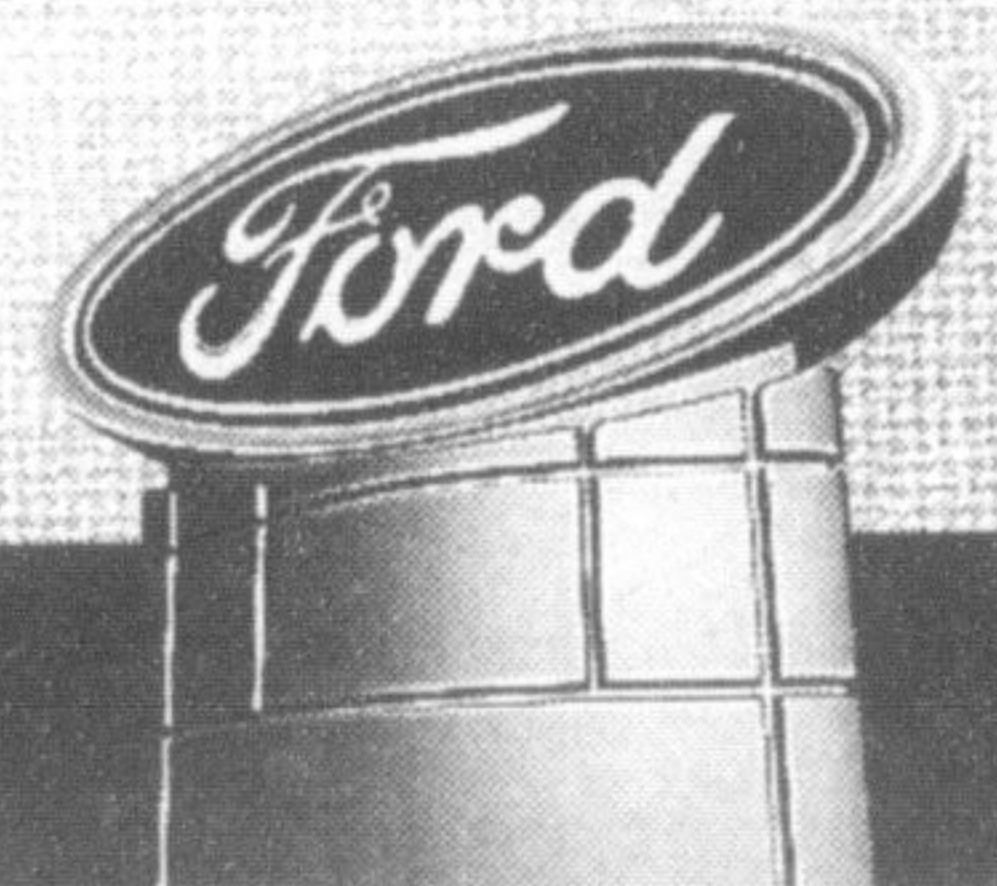
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