Water bill for improved services will hit \$550 million

• from TAB on page 1

approach to doing financing with municipal cost front-ending will not be fiscally feasible," said Mr. Burke.

"As a result, going it alone doesn't appear to be workable."

The staff report detailed substantial initial costs for water supply and wastewater treatment, some as early as 1995, resulting from the immediate need to build a water pipeline to Milton and provide iniial capacity for new homes expected in 1998.

More than half the \$550 million cost of water and wastewater infrastructure — about \$291 million must be spent in the first five years, by 2000.

A financing model indicated conventional Halton-only financing can't sustain the HUSP. That model showed impacts including:

· Annual infrastructure debt charges of \$64 million by 2011 (with \$58 million recovered later from development charges, but only if development materializes as planned).

- · A doubling of water billing to the commercial/industrial sector.
- · Required debt levels five times the region's current level.

A consultant's analysis of private sector involvement indicated the private sector wouldn't likely achieve its target return on investment without a significant upfront cash contribution by developers.

The staff report recognized significant growth pressures in Halton as a "virtual certainty" and stated, outside the HUSP framework, Halton would face pressure to expand out from current urban boundaries similar to Mississauga's response to growth; long and expensive challenges to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) by developers and "little or no opportunity for Milton or Halton Hills to grow beyond current limits."

Staff recommended HUSP financing involve the region, benefitting landowners, a private sector consortium and the provincial government. Mr. Burke said staff weren't mak-

Strawberry crop late

Better late than never.

Following a short delay, the strawberry season has started.

This year's strawberry crop was the latest the Metro Toronto area has seen in a decade, says John Hughes, horticulturalist and co-owner of Springridge Farm on Bell School Line.

Because of the unseasonably cool spring, the strawberry harvest is three or four days late compared with last year, which was also tardy, he said.



ing recommendations on financing landowners and testing private secaffordability, merely costing out the **HUSP** vision.

Finance commissioner Joe Rinaldo said the 19 recommendations before council sought authority to move to the HUSP's implementation stage by negotiating with the province, opening discussions with

tor interest.

Having funded 50 per cent of the study's cost, staff said the province already had a large stake in the HUSP.

"I think it's time to move on," said planning director Rash Mohammed.

"The HUSR has almost been part

of my daily vocabulary since 1986. I, as one individual, want to get on with it not only for our municipality but for Halton," said Mr. Krantz, calling it; "one of the most important things the region and Town of Milton have had to deal with."

The mayor put forward a number of phrases representative of the new

HUSP plan, "Hurry Up with Services, Please; Hear Us Saying Proceed; or Help Us, Services Please."

Burlington Mayor Walter Mulkewich noted, "the financial implications are really the crux of it." He called for deferral of the issue to allow more time for study.



- 3.8 L V6
- 4 WHEEL ABS BRAKES
- REAR WIPER/WASHER

· AUTO O/D

• TINTED GLASS

- B/S MOULDING
- 7 PASSENGER
- AM/FM STEREO • INTERVAL WIPERS
- . DUAL AIR BAGS
- CUP HOLDERS
- BLOCK HEATER

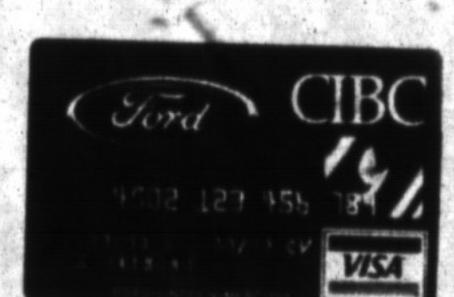
Special Price

LIMITED TIME OFFER

Plus Options, Freight and Taxes (In stock 'GL's only)

24 HOUR ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE





FORD

LINCOLN

MERCURY

655 MAIN STREET EAST, MILTON . 875-FORD (3673)