

Water bill for improved services will hit \$550 million

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 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 initial 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-

ing recommendations on financing affordability, 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

landowners and testing private sector 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 HUSP 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 Mulke-wich noted, "the financial implications are really the crux of it." He called for deferral of the issue to allow more time for study.



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