

Equity compost plant decision deferred again

By LISA TALLYN
Special to The Champion

Halton Hills town council has deferred a decision on the Equity Waste Management proposal until a study of the Steeles Ave./Hwy. 401 industrial corridor is completed.

Council also passed an interim control bylaw that will be in effect until the study is completed, allowing for only agricultural uses, parks and recreational facilities in the corridor.

The study, which is expected to be done in about eight months, will take a look at the corridor from east of Fifth Line to Winston Churchill Blvd. to provide advice on how council can achieve high quality, high visibility prestige industrial

growth for that area.

The Equity composting facility is proposed for a 20-acre parcel of land on the south side of Steeles Ave., west of Eighth Line and east of Trafalgar Rd, basically in the Hornby area and somewhat closer to Milton than Halton Hills. Technically, however, the proposed site is in Halton Hills.

Larry Hurley, chief executive of Equity Waste, was not happy with council's decision.

"I am disappointed at the way council has approached this," said Mr. Hurley after the recent meeting. "They should have been passing a resolution regarding an Environmental Protection Act hearing. They (council) are sending out a

very clear message to potential investors — Halton Hills is closed for business."

He added a landowner cannot rely on the zoning on his land to ensure he can proceed with development plans.

"Now they (council) are telling us despite the fact the zoning is in place, they are not sure they want us here."

Mr. Hurley, who said Equity has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to get the proposal this far, said he is not yet certain which step he plans to take next.

Vic Hendrickson of the Hornby East Ratepayers Organization (HERO) supported council's move to study the area.

"We are pleased they took the

approach not to approve (the proposal)," said Mr. Hendrickson. "A study is needed to get a comprehensive plan for the corridor."

Council unanimously supported the resolution (Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller was absent) calling for the study. Councillor Norm Elliott proposed it.

"The stakeholders are not just the neighbors (of the proposed facility)," said Mr. Elliott. "They are everyone in the town of Halton Hills. At this time the application is premature and will not receive a stamp of approval."

"A study has to be done and where the \$30,000 to \$50,000 (to cover the cost of the study) will come from remains to be seen."

He added he had very strong con-

cerns about the zoning issue. Halton Hills council has heard varying legal opinions on whether or not the proposed facility contravenes the town's zoning bylaw based on water use.

Council decided not to put the zoning question to a judge, which was recommended at a recent committee meeting.

Councillor Pam Johnston said she had mixed feelings about the resolution, because she believes the introduction of an interim control bylaw pending the completion of the study could open the town up to legal wrangles.

"The 401 strip holds our economic future," said Councillor Gail Rutherford. "It has always been stated that area should be prestige development but that has not been articulated well enough in our paperwork."

John Lyver retires his sheriff post

• from GENTLEMAN on page 5 about everything an officer on the road encounters, whether in a big city or a small town. He has had his share of high-speed chases and drunken brawls.

Without a doubt, his most devastating experience as a cop was informing a friend that his seven-year-old daughter had been hit by a school bus and killed.

"That was one of the worst things I ever did in my life," he said. "It's something you don't get used to doing."

Incidents like that still cause him to jump in his sleep some nights, he revealed. Only once in his career has Constable Lyver drawn his gun. That was while apprehending an escaped prisoner in a wooded area on Trafalgar Road more than 20 years ago.

He has never been shot at, but 23 years ago suffered a sizeable gash above his left ankle when he was kicked by a drunken woman wearing cowboy boots while arresting her at the McGibbon Hotel in Georgetown.

Today, the most predominant crime in rural Milton is break-ins, he said.

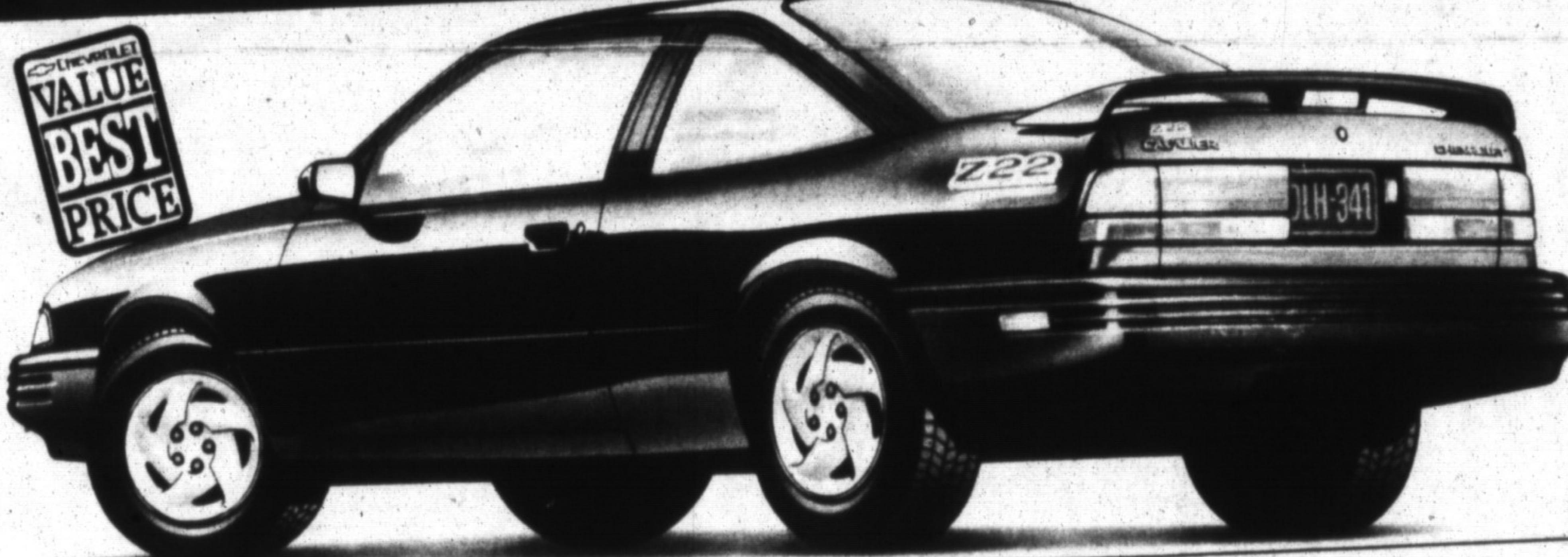
Oddly enough, he has never been on shift when thieves targeted Campbellville's Livery, a Guelph Line convenience store that has frequently been broken into.

The father of five lived in Georgetown with his wife Joan for the first eight years of his career before moving to Hillsburgh 19 years ago.

The constable doesn't plan to take his retirement sitting down. He said he will spend the first month simply relaxing, but then will look into obtaining a part-time job in a security-related field.

"I'll miss the people, but I won't miss getting up at 5:30 in the morning," he said.

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