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# New regulations in effect for drinking water systems

The province has transferred the responsibility for overseeing small drinking water systems from the Ministry of the Environment to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Public Health Units.

Whitchurch-Stouffville has three such small drinking water systems: Lemonville Community Centre, Vandorf Community Centre and Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. Along with the transfer of

authority, which took place Dec. 1, two new regulations under the Health Protection and Promotion Act also came into effect - the Transitional Regulation and Permanent Regulation.

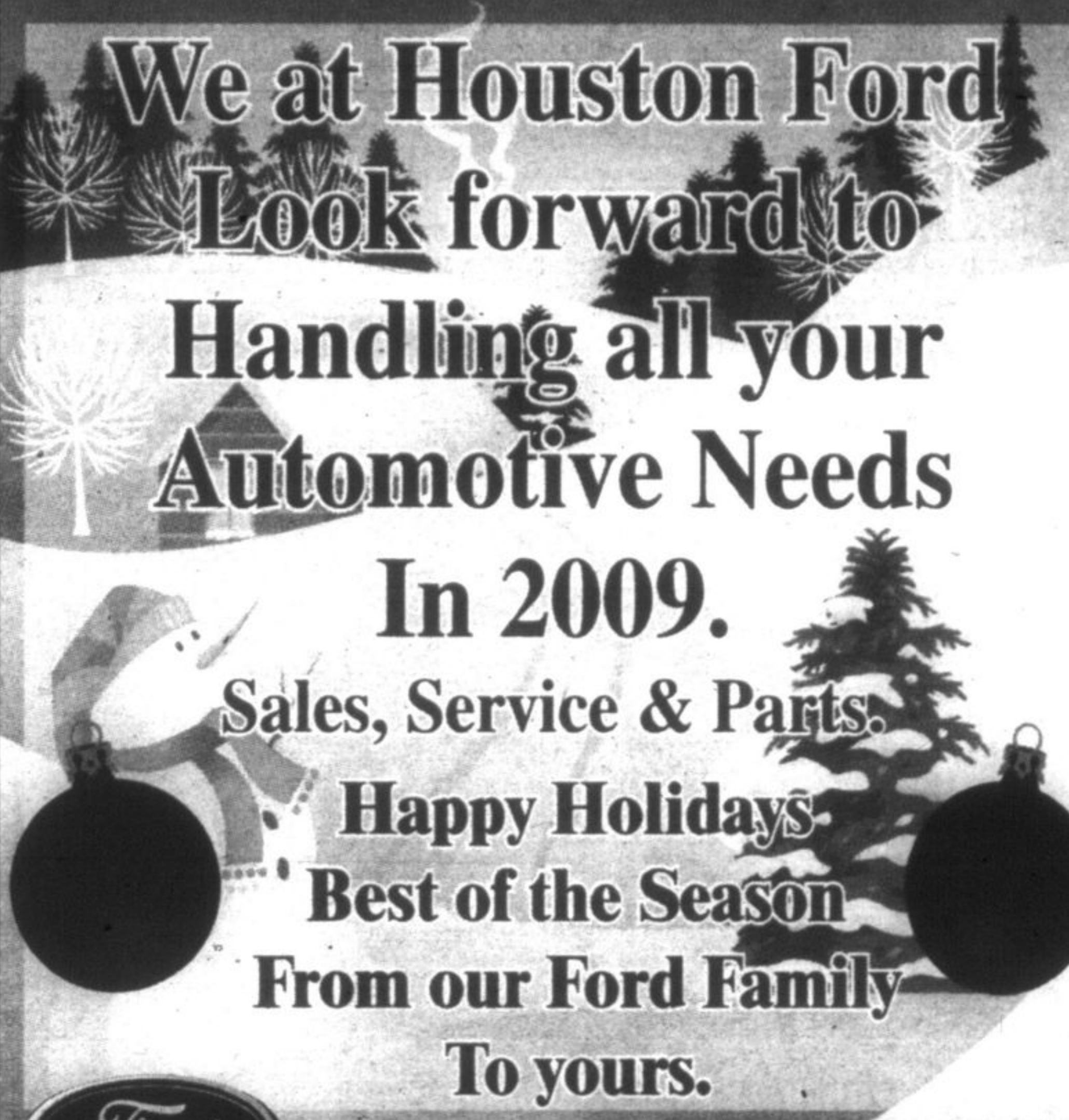

"The new regulation was introduced to reduce the challenges that current drinking water requirements pose to owner/operators of small drinking water systems," noted a report by Denis Chartrand, Whitchurch-Stouffville's manager of operations.

"A new risk-based, site-specific approach for these systems was developed and the oversight responsibility for these systems was transferred to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and health units."


Under the risk-based approach, directives for each system will be customized, versus the one-size fits all solution of the past.

"It's our intention to maintain our present service levels until completion of the assessments," commented Mr. Chartrand, who also noted the municipality expects its small drinking water system inspection to take place in the latter part of 2009.

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