

*Business of the Year*

# Kentners Catering serves up the best business of 1991



It's a family affair for Kentners Social Catering, named the 1991 Business of the Year. Mom Gerry is the cook, dad, Dave is the administrator and daughter Lori is the catering manager.

By JANET BAINE

Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and scores of well wishers honored Kentners Social Catering as Halton Hills' 1991 Business of the Year, Wednesday evening.

The business is a family affair: with mom Geraldine (Gerry) Kentner as the chef, dad Dave as administrator and daughter Lori as catering manager. Working 40 to 90 hours a week helps keep the family close.

"It's a very, very difficult thing to try and co-ordinate all of those roles and emotions," Dave Kentner said. "On the other hand, it's a tremendous opportunity: to work with my daughter, share the joys and pleasures with her. She'll be getting married next summer. And the person I love most in all the world, Gerry; I look forward to spending the day with her."

Lori, 27, said she "absolutely did not intend" to be part of her parents business when she was younger. But five years ago she began working there full-time, after finishing a degree from the University of Western Ontario and working as a real estate agent. She and her sister Jennifer, now living in Windsor, helped their parents out while they were going to school.

"We don't work together, but we work in the same building," Lori said. "We all have our own job descriptions, but each one of us can do the other's job." Her parents treat her as an equal and respect her opinions, which makes it easy to work with them, she said.

Kentners Social Catering was started 17 years ago from the Kentner's home. Dave said he was service manager for a dealership, and wanted to make a change. Gerry always loved to cook, so they decided to get into catering. At first they operated a number of concessions, which was "high

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volume, high revenue" sales, but now their business focuses more on catering.

Operated out of 62 Mill St., they usually have several business luncheons, as well as weddings and banquets each week.

"I would say we're all workaholics. We never have a problem with who is working more and we're very conscious of everyone's efforts," Gerry said.

With the current recession, many of the Kentners' corporate clients have either disappeared or

scaled down on social events, like Christmas parties.

"With a lot of adjustments to our business, we're doing quite well," Dave said. Some staff have been laid off, and they have had to cut down on perks for employees.

On some of the busiest days of the year, it's not unusual for the company to employ 50 people or more using up to six vehicles while catering up to three weddings at the same time.

Dave, Gerry and Lori have all been active in the community. Dave is president of Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council and past president of the Jaycees, and the Chamber of Commerce and Minor Hockey.

Gerry served as president of the Jaycettes, a member of the Beta-Sigma-Phi Sorority and is active with the Y Art Auction. Lori has continued the family tradition by being a past director with the Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Georgetown Little Theatre and works with the Alumni Society of her alma mater.



Mayor Russ Miller honors the Kentner family, Dave, far left, Lori, and Gerry and their business, Kentners Social Catering.

### Open House planned for new urban growth

An open house on Halton's Urban Structure Review is to be held next Thursday, Mar. 5 at Milton's EC Drury High School, from 7-9 p.m. The meeting is to gather the public's views on Halton's future urban development — where, when and how residential, industrial and commercial growth should take place. For more information,

contact Halton Region's Planning Department at 878-8113.

### UWC book sale

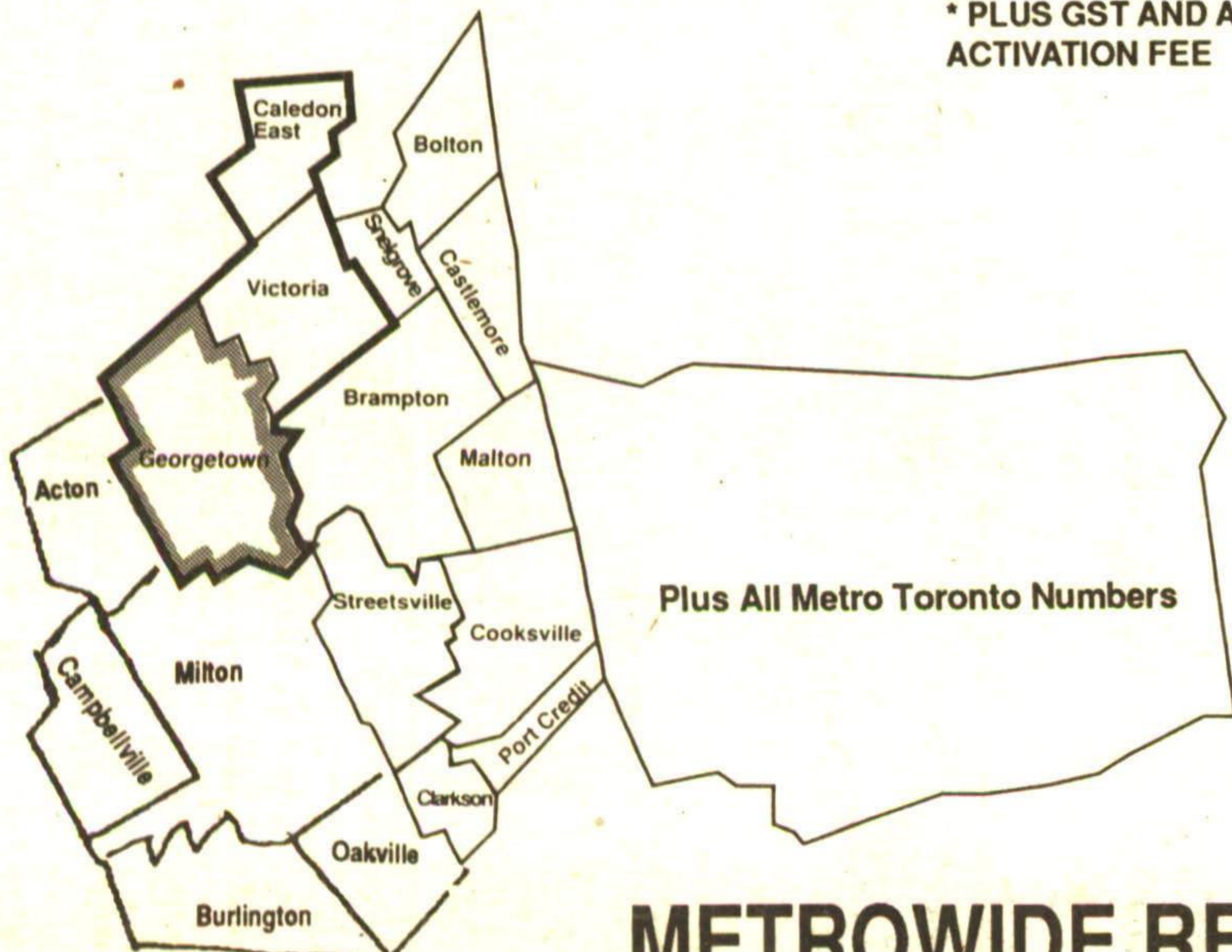
University Women's Club of Georgetown is holding its annual used book sale on Saturday, April 25. We are looking for good used books. Donations may be dropped off at Georgetown and Acton Libraries, McDonalds or Hallmark Cards. If you wish to have your books picked up please call 873-4985 or 877-5806.

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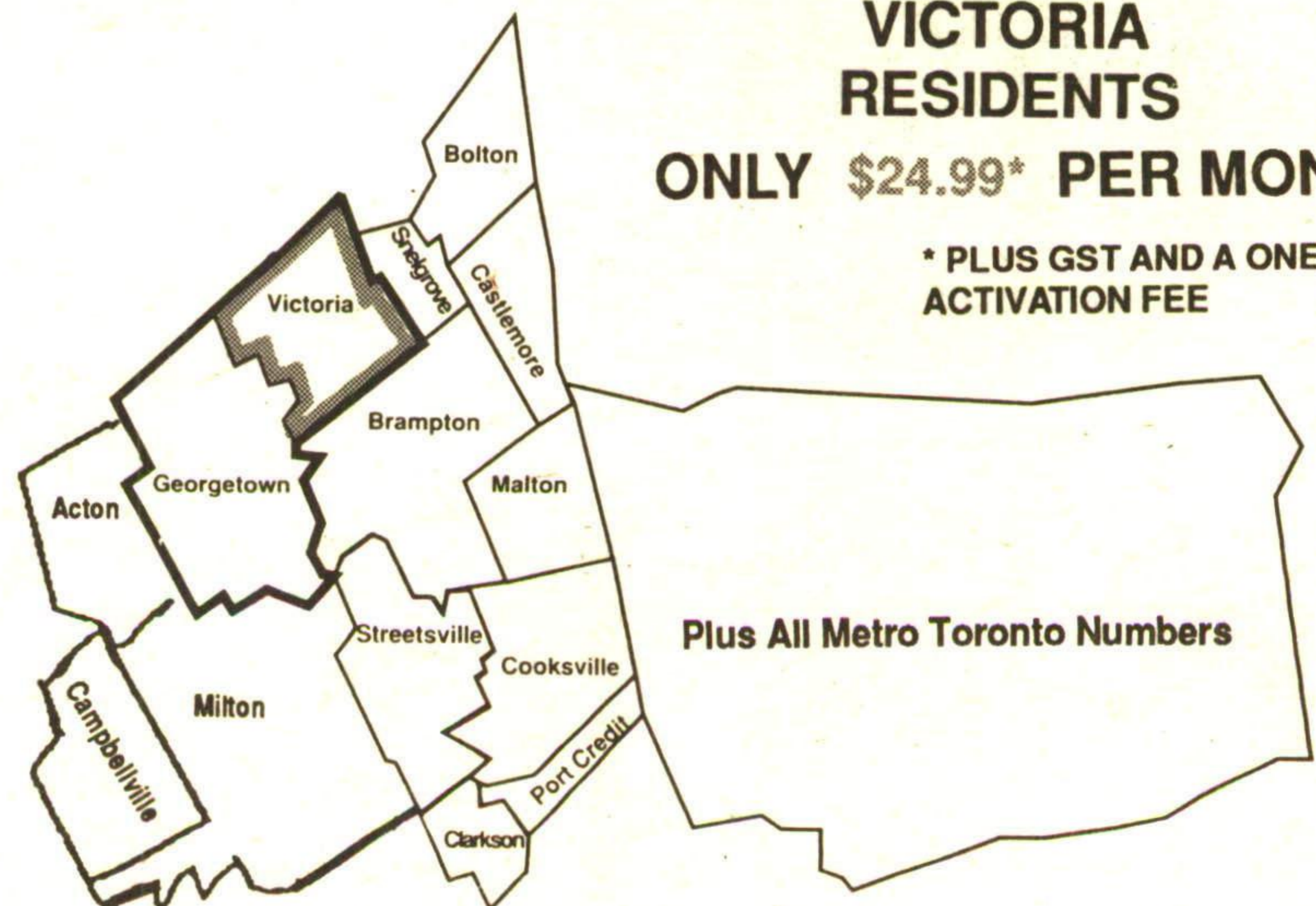
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