

Guaranteed organic products grown in Milton

BY KAREN DALLIMORE

Anything that grows can be considered organic, but in order to be certified organic, produce needs more than just fresh air, healthy soil, clean water and sunshine to meet organic food production standards. It takes dedication and a lot of hard work. Just ask Paul Bousfield when you see him at the Milton Farmers' Market this summer.

William Bousfield, Paul's grandfather, started Bousfield's Orchards back in 1931. He worked in Texas for a few years on citrus fruit farms before returning to Milton to establish his own farm on Derry Road, just west of Milton. In 2000, Bousfield's Orchards met the requirements to become certified organic producers of apples, pears, sweet cherries and plums.

It was a three year transition from conventional to organic on paper, says Paul, but reality is that the true transition will take many more years. After the Second World War, Paul's father, Roy, followed the prevailing wisdom of the day by using chemical pest control and fertilizers. After decades of

depleting the soil, it may take the same amount of time to make it healthy again.

Chemical fertilizers have hardened the soil, leaving it vulnerable to erosion and without enough organic matter to hold moisture. Paul says that the Indians used to plant a fish under each corn seed as fertilizer, and organic producers now follow that wisdom by using natural products such as fish emulsion, compost, molasses and kelp as fertilizer.

Bousfield's organic fruit costs a little more than conventionally grown fruit because of the labour intensive fieldwork. For example,

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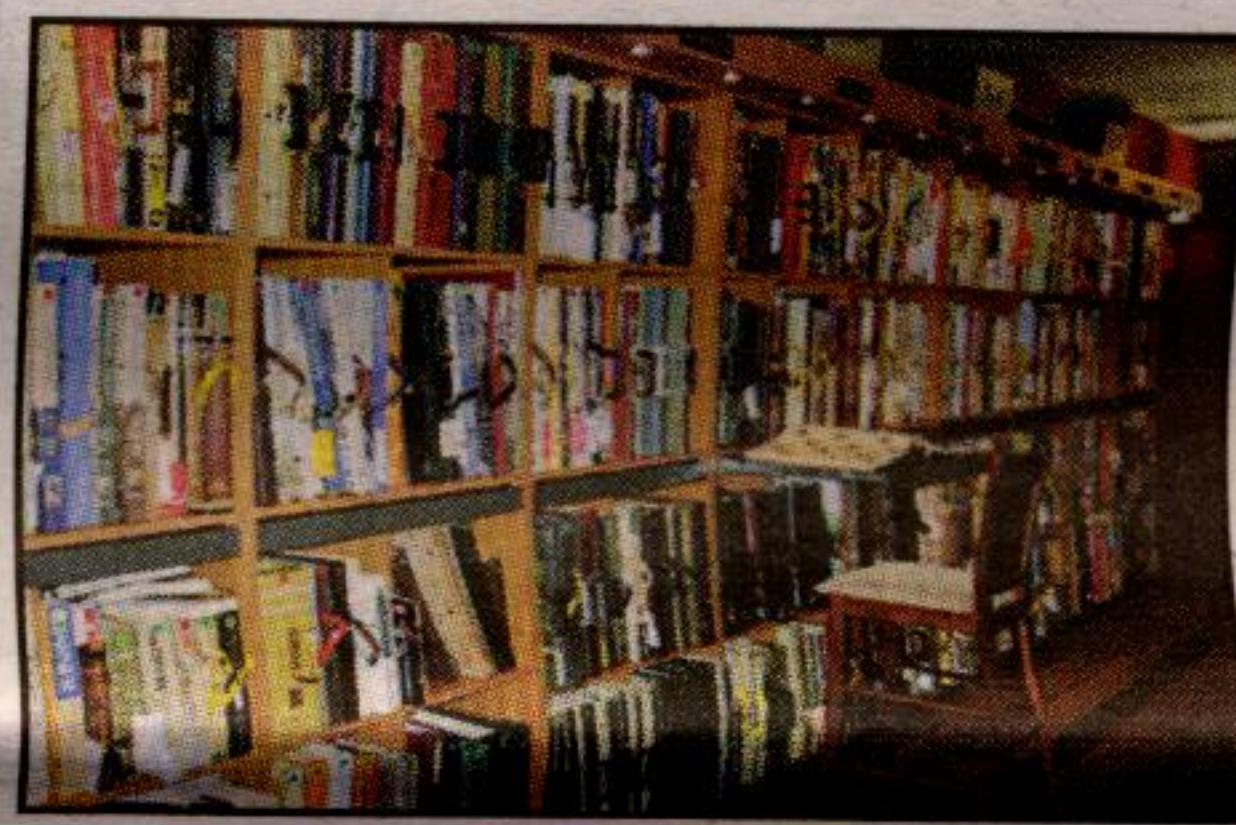
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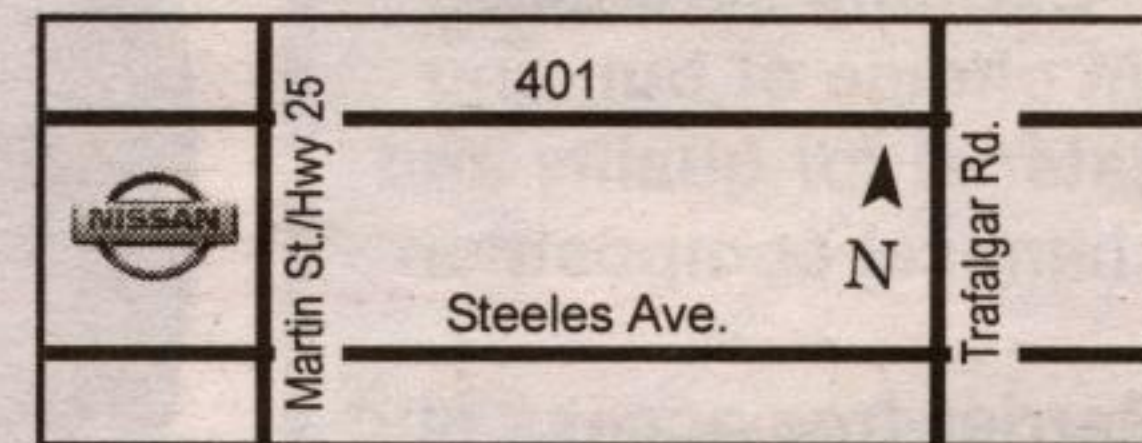


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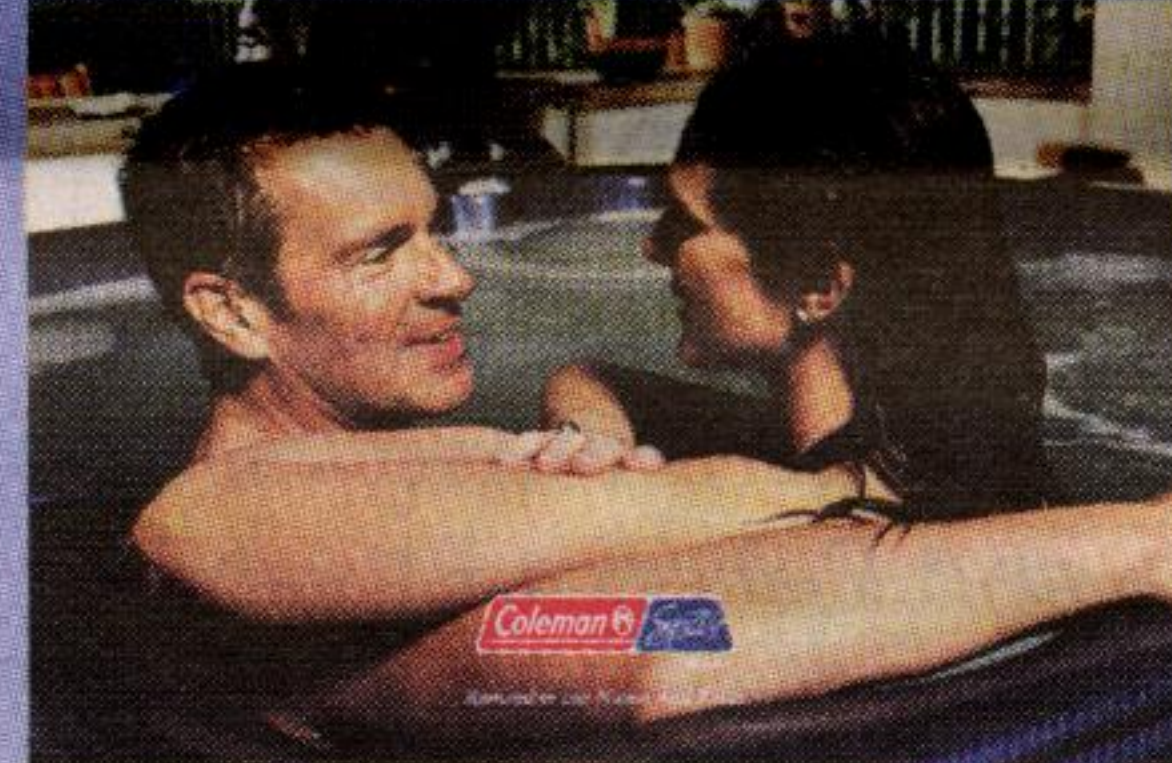
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