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~ SURVEYING THE REGION ~

# The North Halton Compass

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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 14, 2003

## Dufferin wants bigger piece of the rock

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

On November 17 at 10 a.m. a meeting in Milton's Council Chambers could mark the beginning of the end for 205 acres of escarpment land. A joint board made up of members of the Environmental Review Tribunal and the Ontario Municipal Board will hold a preliminary hearing regarding Dufferin Aggregates' intention to expand its Milton quarry.

Dufferin plans to extend the quarry by 83 hectares, or 205 acres, to the north and northeast of the existing quarry, and to mine 70 hectares or 173 acres. This land is located in both the Towns of Milton and Halton Hills as it covers both sides of the Town Line south of 15th Side Road. Sixty million tonnes of stone are expected to be quarried here over 10 to 12 years.

This significant proposal involves applications for the following: To amend the Niagara Escarpment Plan; obtain a development permit from the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC); amend the official plans of the

Regional Municipality of Halton, the Town of Halton Hills and the Town of Milton; amend Milton's zoning by-law; and obtain a licence from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to operate a quarry.

There is objection to the proposal as a whole from the groups Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE), Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER), and Save the Niagara Escarpment (SaNE), and from individual citizens, including at least one petition of more than 2,200 signatures.

This application seems to have been triggered by the sale of land by the Town of Halton Hills. In 2000, during the last six months of Marilyn Serjeantson's tenure as Mayor, the Town sold a portion of St. Helena Road to Dufferin for the paltry sum of \$3,645 plus the Town's legal costs. A professional estimate of the value of the aggregate beneath this road is in the millions of dollars. In January 2001, Dufferin made the application

currently under review.

Under the Niagara Escarpment Plan, the subject lands are currently designated Escarpment Rural Area and are an essential part of the Escarpment corridor. They provide a buffer to more ecologically sensitive areas of the Escarpment. Dufferin is applying to have this designation changed to Mineral Resource Extraction Area.

According to the 2002 staff report of the NEC, expanding the Milton quarry "will fragment the remaining substantially continuous natural environment in the vicinity of the Niagara Escarpment in the Town of Milton. There will be no continuous strip of natural environment or natural corridor/ecological link from the brow at the south end to the northerly extent of the applicant's landholdings."

Members of POWER point out that the Escarpment is not the only location with high-quality aggregate. A report from the NEC indicates three times the amount of compara-

continued on page 4

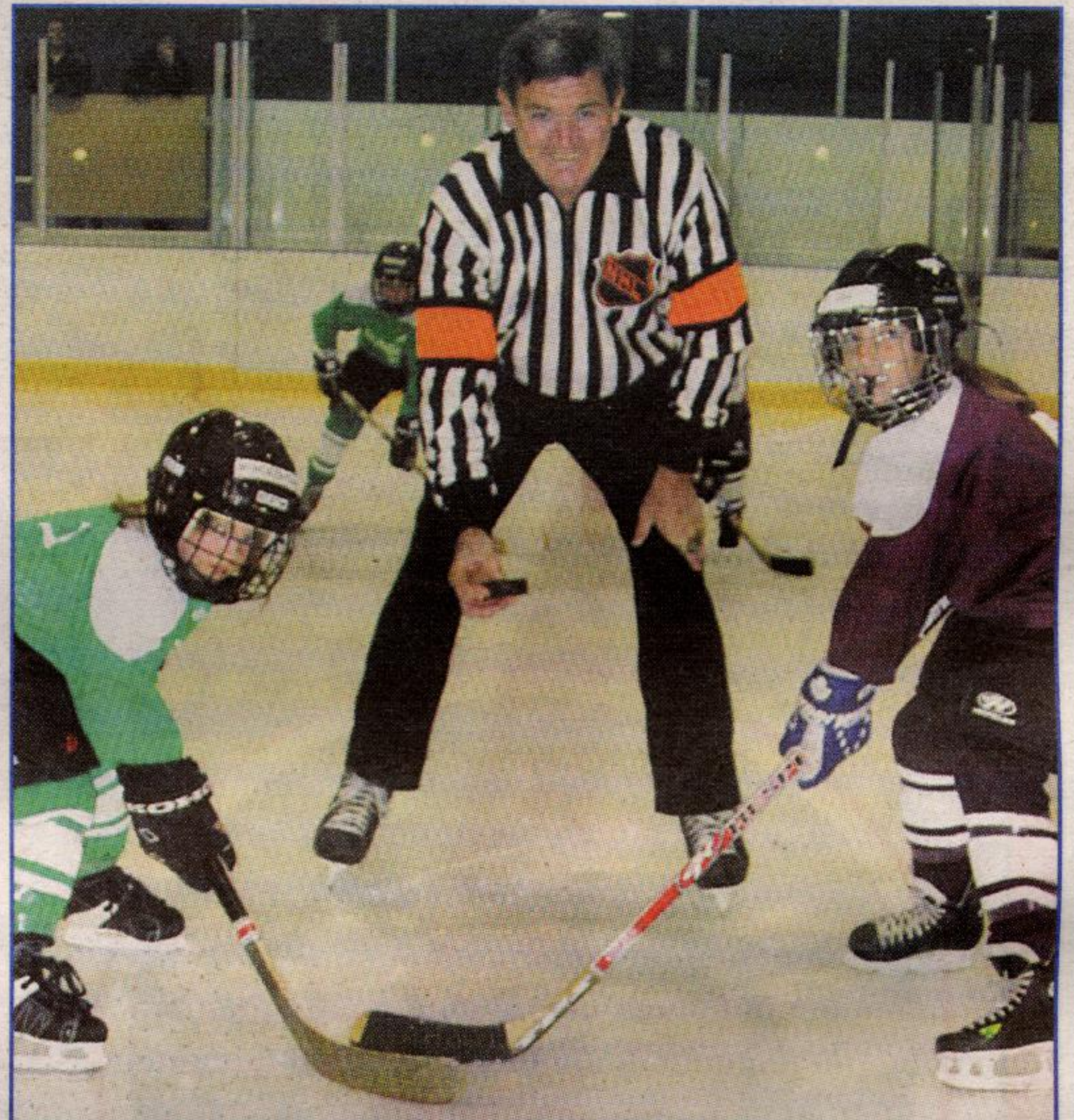


PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

### Local zebra opens Milton Sports Centre

Legendary NHL Referee Bruce Hood was on hand for the grand opening of the Milton Sports Centre and refereed a game between Mackenzie Harris' Halton Hills Sunrise Acres team (left) and Lisa Laidlaw's Milton Tim Horton's team (right). Phase one of the Centre includes two ice rinks, six dressing rooms for each rink and a 15,000 square foot gymnastics area. Also included are 2,400 square feet of community multi-purpose space, such as meeting rooms and a banquet room for larger events.

### Inside The Compass

#### SHOEBOX MEMORIES

Alexander and Anne Campbell emigrated to Canada in 1868, and they eventually settled on Lot 10, Concession 2 Nassagaweya Township, Halton County.

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#### IDLE PURSUITS

What do you do with three fiancées? The first production for the 21st season of Theatre in the Trees at the University of Guelph's Arboretum is *Boeing-Boeing*, a French farce by Marc Camoletti, offers an answer.

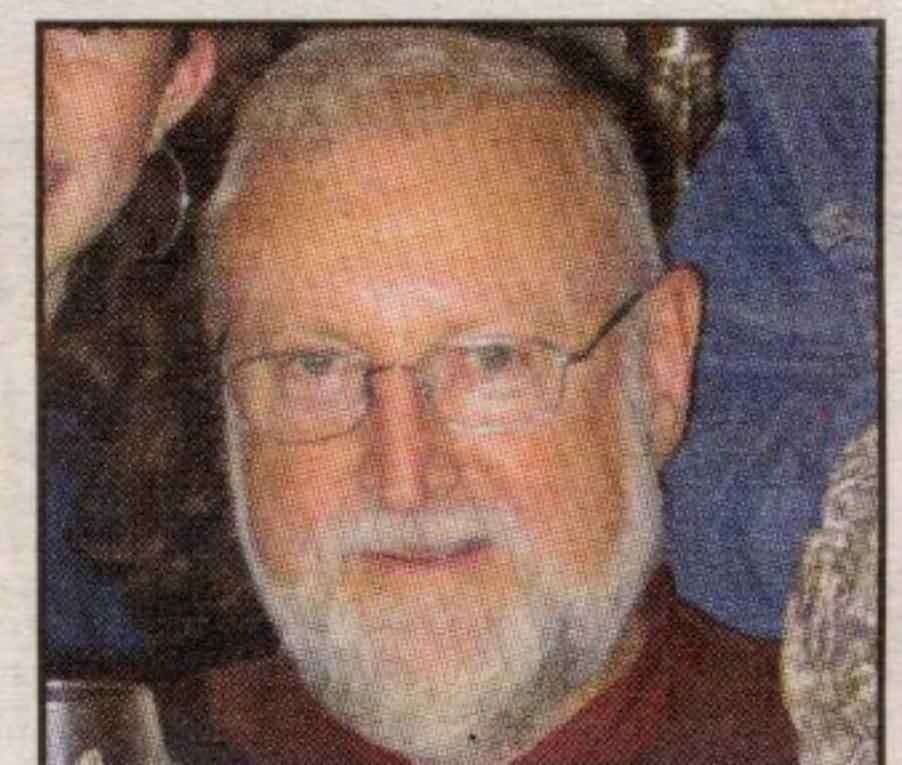
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#### CELEBRITY VISIT

The Lord of the Rings artist and sculptor Dr. Graeme Anthony was on hand at Delacourt's on November 5 to preview the limited edition of his King Elessar goblet.

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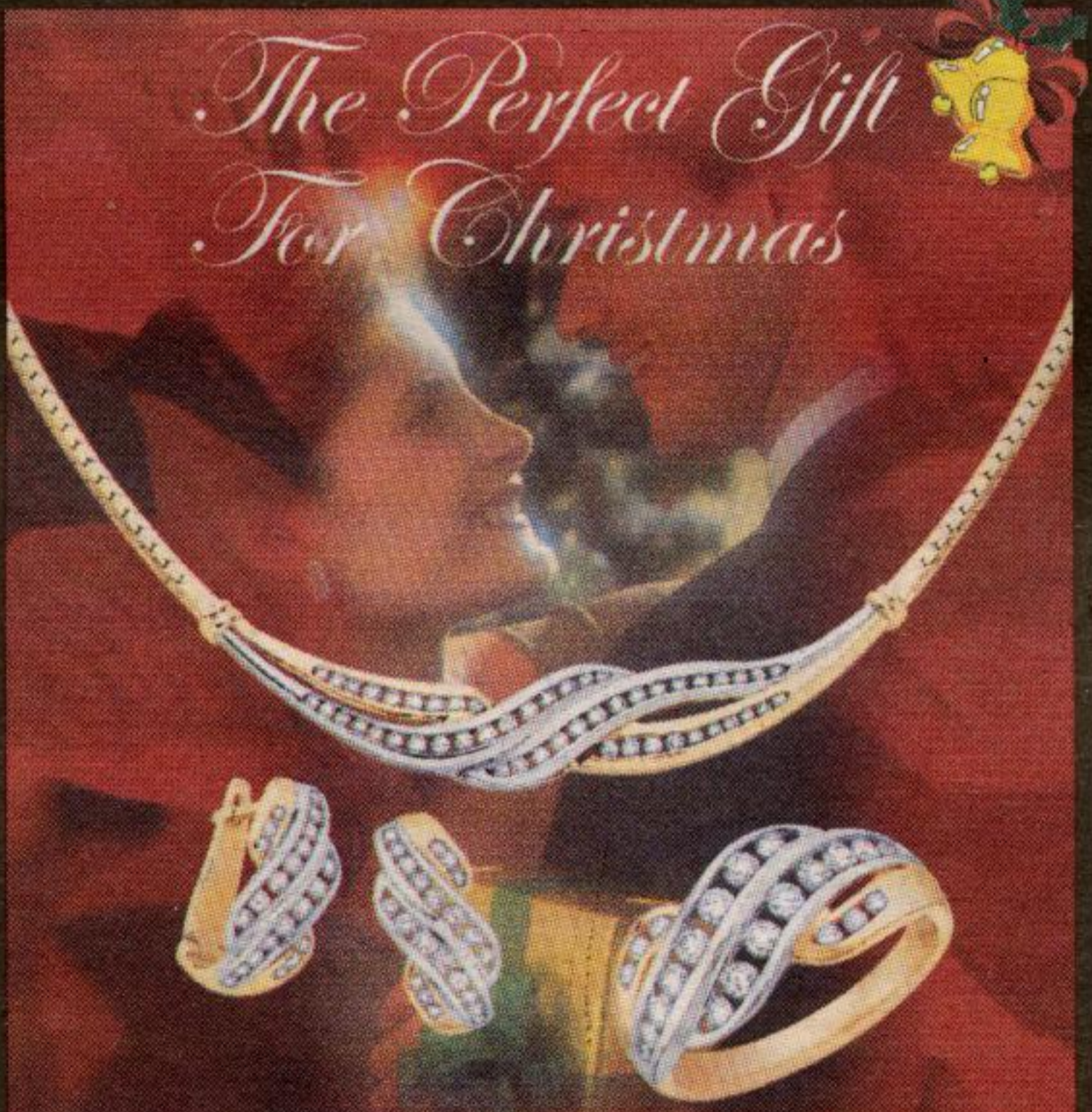
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