

Jeff Lumby's view from the country

One man's garbage

In an effort to reduce costs and pass the savings onto you, the consumer, airlines have resorted to some interesting tactics lately. Some have replaced the full course meal with a stale bag of pretzels. Others have removed the pillow perk from all of their flights. And recently Jetsgo took the unprecedented cost savings approach of servicing only one leg of a two-way fare to 17,000 of their passengers. Smart!

One area of the plane that appears to be off limits to the cost-cutting axe is the seat pouch. Thankfully there's still a world of entertainment at your fingertips. Right! It's not by accident that the only thing accompanying the airline magazine and catalogue is something to throw up in. On my last trip with Northwest, out of boredom I started thumbing through their Skymall catalogue. After about 10 pages I realized it easily could have been called Crapmall. I have never seen so many future garage sale items staring me in the face at once. Want proof?

There's the roll-up-tie-case. It's a clear plastic jar a little larger than a film container designed to store your neckties for travel. It has a winding mechanism that gently rolls a tie up inside the shell to protect it wrinkle free. Another item of clothing that'll be wrinkle free is your underwear if your buddies see you using that tie jar. 'Cos you will soon be experiencing a wedgie of nuclear proportions.

For the golfer who's trying to shave a stroke or two off of his game there's the Personal Golf Swing Analyzer. Simply attach the sophisticated micro-computer to the shaft of your club and swing. The processor will record all facets of the motion and the digital readout then reports its findings to you. One of the most common suggestions made by the palm-sized device is this one: Your clubhead speed would greatly improve if you just took that stupid computer off the shaft.

If you have a wedding to go to and you want to stand out as the person who brought the tackiest gift, Skymall offers The Entwined Lovers, Millennium edition. This fluid glass piece captures love and embarrassment for only \$229.00 and would adorn anyone's mantelpiece or recycling bin.

Every yard has unsightly pipes, metres or other landscaping eyesores that need to be hidden. Shrubs and flowers are expensive and time consuming. Well, your ship has come in. Introducing the Realistic Boulder.

A lightweight plastic, rocklike boulder that covers any unattractive lump of ugly you may have in your yard. Comes in small, medium and tall size boulders. Once you've purchased and installed your Realistic Boulder, the only thing left to hide is your hideous new fake rock.

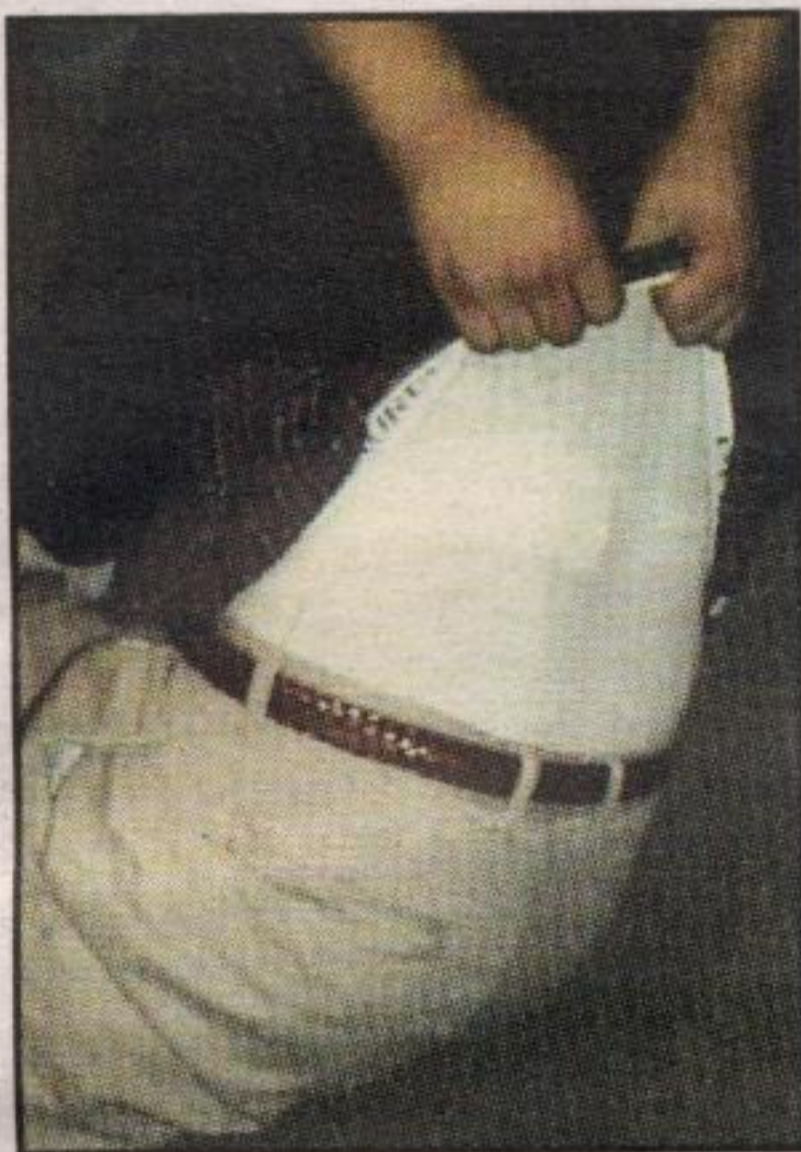
Speaking of your yard, everyone enjoys a nice healthy lawn. And sometimes even the heartiest of lawns needs aeration. Now Skymall gets to the "root" of the problem by getting you off your butt. Presenting Lawn Aerator Sandals. Simply strap these super spiked foot covers over a pair of regular shoes and get busy. Twenty-six 1-1/2" steel spikes create open-air passages down into the lawn to allow air, water and nutrients to reach the roots. Comes complete with a paper bag to wear over your head while you're doing it.

And what yard would be complete without the Sonic Mole Chaser. Once pounded into your lawn, this battery operated, 16-inch spike emits intermittent sonic pulses that deter those unwanted rodents from burrowing under your grass. Each amazing Sonic Mole Chaser protects approximately 13,500 sq. ft. depending on soil density. Buy 1 for \$29.95 or 10 for \$299.50 depending on owner density. Time to tell the moles the free lunch is over.

Skymall also sells coffee tables with replica human legs, plastic fold-up flower vases, battery operated cold-sore zappers, high-heeled shoes with spring-like shock absorbers (sexy!!!!), life size WWI airplane propellers, shoe stretchers, coat hangers that attach to the back of your car's headrest, pet booster seats, digital Pen Spy Cameras, hair removal kits and of course personalized branding irons. There's something for everyone.

How much would you pay for a catalogue of this scope? \$25.00? \$50.00? \$100.00? How about FREE!!!! That's right, when you fly with Northwest there's a complimentary copy of Skymall waiting for you in your seat pouch.

Here I thought all the airlines were out to grab your cash and give you nothing in return. Boy is my face red!



Business After Hours

PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

Milton Chamber of Commerce members came out in droves for one of the most popular Business After Hours events last week. Hosted by Kelly Ford (left) owner of Crimson Dog Web Design Services and Allison Vaux, owner of Allison's Of Milton Catering, the highlight of the evening was the scrumptious food served. Guests got a sneak peek at the gourmet caterer's kitchen as they enjoyed selections from Allison's new spring menu.

The Regional Municipality of Halton
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NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

Regional Road 25 Transportation Corridor Highway 401 to north of Campbellville Road, Town of Milton Class Environmental Assessment Study

The Regional Municipality of Halton is initiating a Class Environmental Assessment to consider a wide range of options for transportation corridor improvements to satisfy future travel demands on Regional Road 25, from Highway 401 to just north of Campbellville Road, in the Town of Milton (refer to map below). The need to satisfy north-south capacity requirements in this transportation corridor has been identified in previous studies including the Halton Transportation Master Plan (2004). In order to best address operational deficiencies associated with this segment of Regional Road 25, a number of road improvement alternatives will be examined as part of the study including widening the roadway, cross-sectional elements, intersection improvements, overall traffic operations and the impact of such improvements on the social and natural environments.

This notice signals the commencement of the Class Environmental Assessment - a study which will define the problem, identify and evaluate alternative solutions, and determine a preferred design in consultation with regulatory agencies, and the public. This study is being conducted in compliance with Schedule C of the *Municipal Class Environmental Assessment* (June 2000), which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

A key component of the study will be consultation with interested stakeholders (public and regulatory agencies) at two Public Information Centres (PIC). The PICs will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to meet with the Project Team, review the study scope and discuss issues related to the project including alternative solutions, environmental considerations and evaluation criteria. It is anticipated that the first public meeting will be held in June 2005. Details regarding the forthcoming PICs will be advertised as the study progresses.

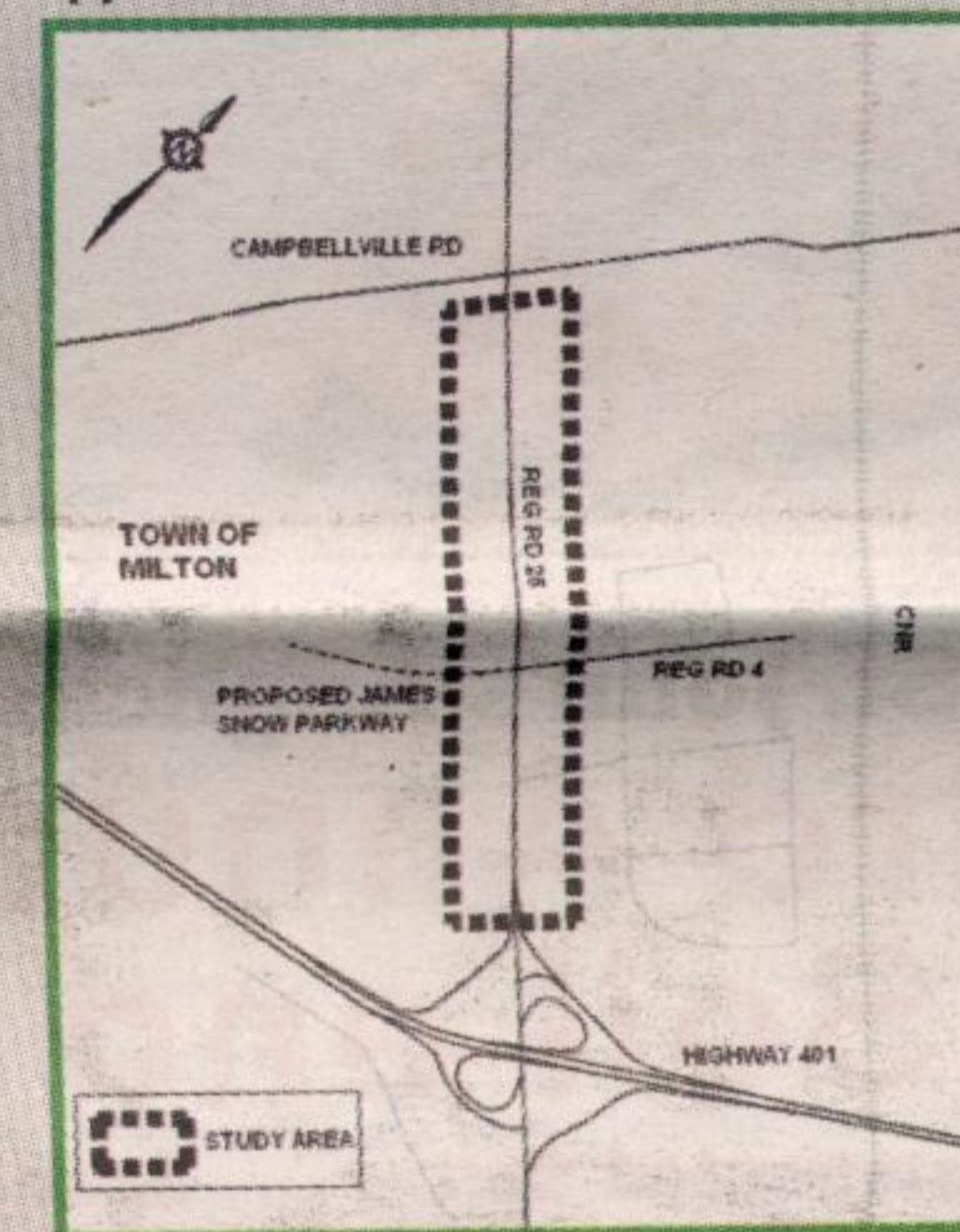
Information requests or questions may be directed to:

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This notice first issued on April 1, 2005

The map below shows the approximate limits of the study area.



www.region.halton.on.ca/ppw/planningroads

REQUEST FOR TENDER

Bid documents for the services listed below, addressed to the Manager of Purchasing, 1151 BRONTE ROAD, OAKVILLE, ON L6M 3L1 will be received until 2:00 p.m. Oakville time on the specified closing date. Bid documents can be seen or obtained through the Purchasing Division of the Corporate Services Department, same address as above, telephone 905-825-6000, extension 7011. If long distance charges apply, dial toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866).

Documents will be available for pick up on and after Tuesday March 29, 2005. There is a non-refundable deposit of \$26.75 (includes GST). Bidders who request documents to be shipped from the Purchasing Department must include a handling fee of \$10.70 (includes GST) for this service.

Bids will be opened in public at 2:15 p.m. on the closing date specified in the Nelson Room at the above address. Those submitting bids are invited to attend.

Under no circumstances will facsimile or late bids be accepted or considered.

Lowest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

Halton Region relies on this advertisement to provide public notice of this business opportunity and is not obligated to notify any potential bidders in any other manner.

T-169-05

ALL LABOUR AND MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY, ASSEMBLY AND FINAL PLACEMENT OF UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE FOR CREEK WAY VILLAGE LONG TERM CARE FACILITY IN BURLINGTON, ONTARIO

CLOSING: TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2005

A. Urbanski
Commissioner of
Social & Community Services

A. Mindenhall, CPPO,
Manager of Purchasing Services

1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
905-825-6000 Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866)
TTY: 905-827-9833 or visit us at: www.region.halton.on.ca

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