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EDITORIAL

The tragedy of Hurricane Katrina is not the physical damage it has inflicted upon New Orleans but the fractures it has exposed in America itself.

It is now almost a cliché that times of great stress are supposed to bring a nation together. I don't doubt but that the relief effort needed beggars our comprehension; that the task is bigger, wider, deeper and sadder than we can grasp. There have been suicides of senior police and fire officials who were just unable to cope with the enormous responsibilities thrust upon them. The media have the unfortunate responsibility of having to point out the inadequacies in the system, even when it would sometimes be more politic to keep their counsel.

So begins the carping in the press about the poor response time by the rescue and relief teams; the unsanitary conditions in refugee locations, and the accusations of racially slanted relief efforts.

Afro-Americans make up some 10% of the population of the USA as a whole, but in New Orleans the percentage is a whopping 62%. The citizenry ensconced in the now infamous Superdome is almost exclusively black. Why it would take three days to get adequate food and water to them is something no one is able to answer. There is no doubt that the blacks in New Orleans are reading a clear message in what they see as racially motivated indifference. The roving gangs of gunmen taking pot shots at relief workers are not doing it for just target practice. There is a palpable anger that they somehow do not count, that unlike St. Paul they are not first class citizens.

Some years ago the black-Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan took the 'Million Man' protest march into Washington to right the injustices that blacks still have to bear in America. The actual head count was closer to half a million but that is still 2% of all blacks in the country, an impressive achievement in logistics. The net result of the march was that Washington ignored it entirely. The problem for the marchers is that most of them were, and still are unable to vote. It is estimated that 1 million black males are currently incarcerated in the USA, that's 8% of the black male population. Incredibly, it's estimated that some two million black males of voting age have felony convictions. That's 30% of the black male vote. Problem is that in the USA felons are disenfranchised for life. The sad truth is that blacks no longer have a political voice in the USA. Small wonder that some turn to violence.

Stepping Out

SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

For the first time, contestants will take to the stage on October 2 for the inaugural Miss Halton and Miss Teen Halton Pageants. This Halton Compass sponsored event will take place at Hot Rods Restaurant, at 121 Chisholm Drive in Milton, and owner Lee Martin couldn't be more pleased. He has recently renovated the large event room attached to the restaurant, renovations that included updating the already extensive sound and lighting systems. As well, Lee's involvement with a classic car rally will see dozens of classic cars lined up outside the restaurant as patrons enter. "Hot Rods is pleased to be hosting this event. We're about supporting the community," says Lee. Event organizer Donna Danielli is especially pleased with the choice of Hot Rods for the event's locale. "Lee has put so much work into the event room, and it is absolutely fantastic in there. It has a great stage, lights, sound... I couldn't think of a better place to have this pageant. Lee is definitely making this much easier to organize."

Judges confirmed for the pageant include Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, Halton Region Chairman Joyce Savoline and Canadian Academy of Vocal Arts owner Kirsten Pitkanen. Entertainment for the evening will be provided by one of Halton's hottest new bands, L.T.D. (LifeTimeDrive). "We're pretty excited about the event," says lead vocalist Steven Demetrious. He points out the band's versatility in playing a variety of different styles of event, and adds that "we really hope a lot of people come out to see the beauty that Halton has to offer." Fans of the band will be happy to know that L.T.D. will continue to play throughout the evening, culminating in a high energy rock concert following the official pageant.

The Miss Halton and Miss Teen Halton Pageants will begin at 6:00 on Sunday October 2, although doors will open for the festival seating at 5:30 pm. Tickets are available for a cost of \$10 and are available at the Halton Compass office at 35 Crawford Cres. Campbellville or at the Vacuum Store, 785 Main Street East Milton.

Applications are currently being accepted for the first annual Miss Halton and Miss Teen Halton Pageants. This competition is sponsored by the Halton Compass, in partnership with the Canada Pageant Corporation, which offers women opportunities for career advancement, networking, media exposure and personal development. It is not a conventional pageant system based on beauty as 40-50 % of the total score is determined by interview about personal platform.

Applications are available at the Halton Compass office and are subject to a \$45 entrance fee, made payable to Canada Pageant Corporation. Applications must be accompanied by a photograph to be used for promotional purposes.

Miss Halton is open all contestants between the ages of 20 and 26, while Miss Teen Halton is open to contestants aged 13 to 19 years old. Please note that the contestants must still be within that target age range as of the National Finals competition to be held in Niagara Falls in August 2006.

The winner in each category will receive a variety of prizes including \$1,000 from Canada Pageant Corporation as a credit towards the \$1,600 National Finals entrance fee, a cash prize from the Halton Compass and gift certificates and products donated by local merchants.

Judging will be based on poise, personality and stage presence. Only one outfit is needed for the competition and competitors may choose to wear party or pageant dresses or evening gowns, there will be no swimsuit competition.

No experience is necessary. The Canada Pageant Corporation prides itself on the integrity of its competitions which have been used by many contestants to open the door to their futures and new career opportunities.

For more information, please contact the Halton Compass at 905-854-3333 and ask for Donna. Deadline for applications is September 23, 2005.



ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE

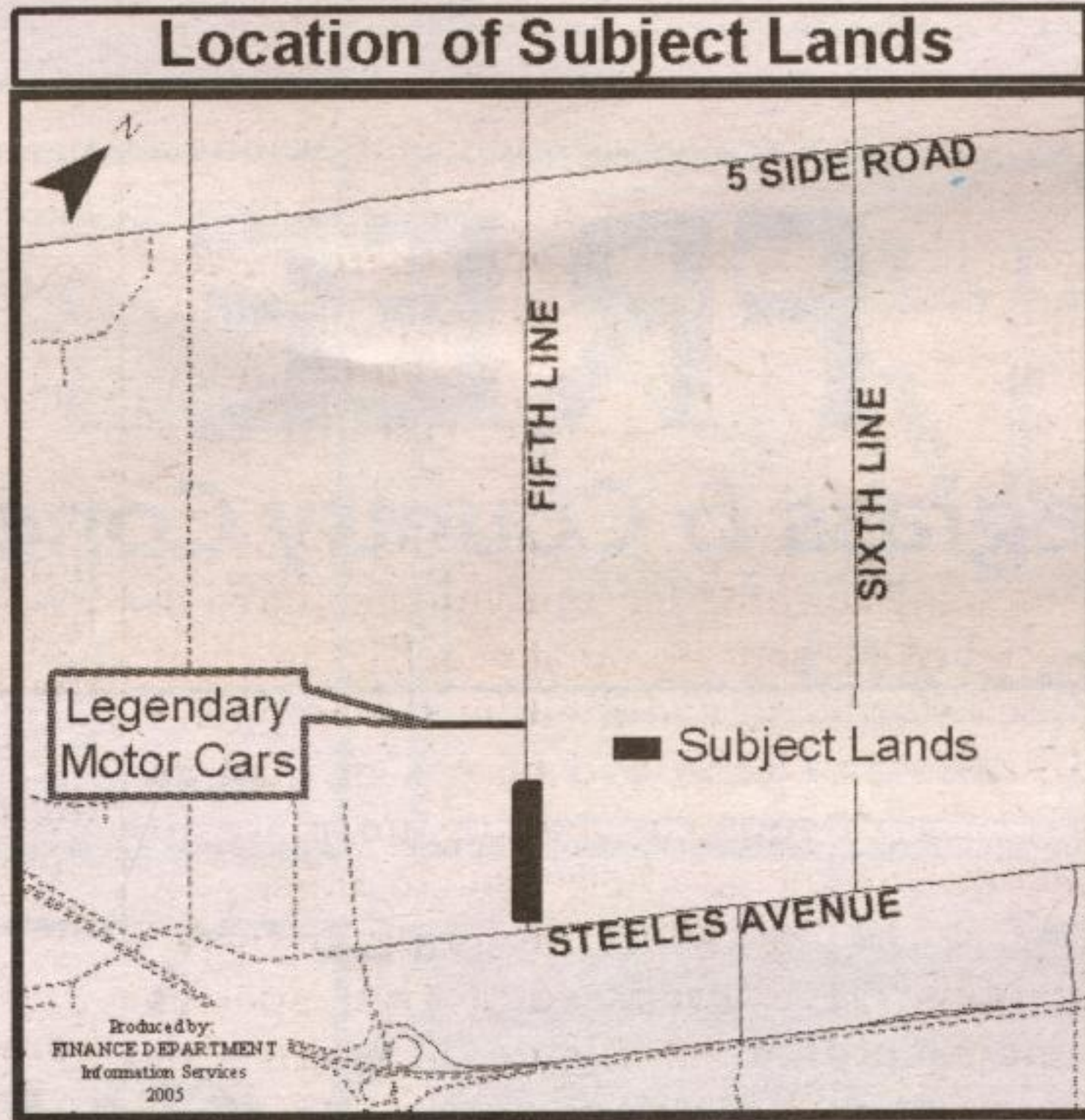
**Fifth Line Reconstruction and Realignment
 Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown)**

Fifth Line will be closed to through traffic from Steeles Avenue to Mansewood Tributary (south of Legendary Motor Car Company) to facilitate the reconstruction of the roadway.

The closure is expected to begin September 19, 2005 with reopening scheduled for November 2005.

The reconstruction of Fifth Line will include excavation, new road base, storm sewers, concrete curbing, sidewalks, asphalt and sodded boulevards. In conjunction with the above work, Fifth Line will be realigned to provide a new intersection with Steeles Avenue to allow for future signalization.

Plans detailing this project are available for viewing during normal business hours at the Engineering and Public Works Department. Inquiries should be directed to Mr. Chris Mills, P. Eng., Manager of Engineering Design and Development, 905-873-2601 Ext. 2301 or Mr. Carmen Sframeli, P. Eng., Contract Administrator of Pitura Husson Limited, 905-709-5825.



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