

The Milton Chamber of Commerce presents



This year marks Mayor Gord Krantz' 25th year as Mayor. Please join us in commemorating Mayor Gord Krantz for his leadership and lifetime of service. The net proceeds of this event will be directed to the Chamber Legacy Fund in the name of Gordon Krantz to improve and maintain community landmarks.

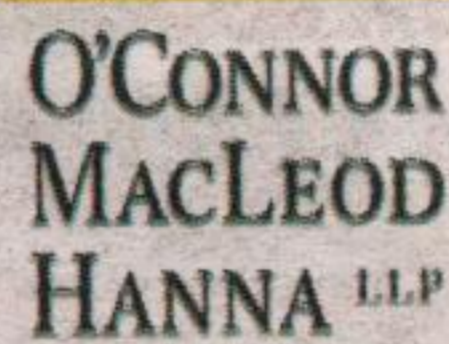
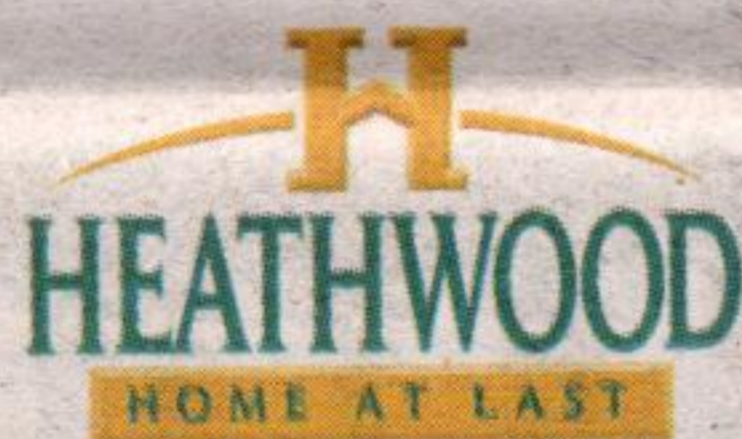
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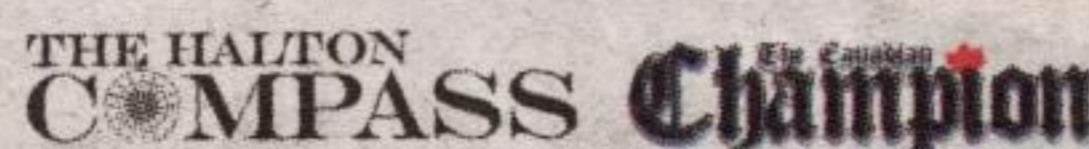
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www.chamber.milton.on.ca

recreation & entertainment

YOUR GUIDE TO WHERE TO GO & WHAT TO DO IN HALTON

Game Review: Mario Superstar Baseball!

GAME REVIEW BY DAVID TIERNEY (00760@MICROPLAY.CA)

Platform: GameCube
ESRB Rating: E for Everyone
Age Appropriateness: Recommended for any age

Mario Superstar Baseball is exactly what we've come to expect in a Mario game: they took a mainstream sport, made it more forgiving for the casual crowd, and added a whole pile of crazy Marioworld quirks and powerups to keep things fresh. And as usual, they ended up crafting a pretty fun game.

At its roots, Superstar Baseball is still just baseball. You pitch, you bat, you field... the basic control scheme and gameplay is reminiscent of any other EA or ESPN baseball game, though with the learning curve flattened a bit. A pretty solid series of tutorials teaches you the controls and the various pitching and hitting styles in about fifteen minutes, and after that you're good to go. Despite the kiddiness of the presentation, the game is very challenging; I don't play very many sports games, and I got absolutely destroyed in my first few games on easy difficulty, until I started to improve my timing and strategies. In other words, I lost until I stopped being terrible, so I guess that's not the game's fault; just don't expect the game to be the cakewalk you find in a lot of Mario games. A large part of the game's difficulty lies in two fairly large design oversights. First of all, when

a ball is hit and you try to field it, it can be hard to tell which player you have control of until it's too late. Next is the rather poor baserunning AI - the moment the ball is hit, your runners take off at full speed, which is annoying when the ball is obviously going to be caught and you want them to stay put. Fortunately, these irritants aren't enough to spoil the game; you just have to get used to them and learn to work around them, and you'll have a blast.

On top of the basic baseball stuff, the game adds the obligatory Mario zaniness in unhittable "star pitches" that catch fire or split into illusions; special powered hits that give your batter enormous striking power; and lots of environmental features in the various ballparks, like the blocks floating in the air above Peach Gardens that send fly balls bouncing in unexpected directions. These additions add a lot of charm to the game, and keep it from getting monotonous.

The Mario games for the Cube are one of the most consistent franchises going today, repeatedly delivering very solid, polished games that appeal to both casual and hardcore gamers. Mario Superstar Baseball, while not perfect, lives up to the high standards set by Mario Kart, Mario Golf and all the rest, and is definitely worth your time.

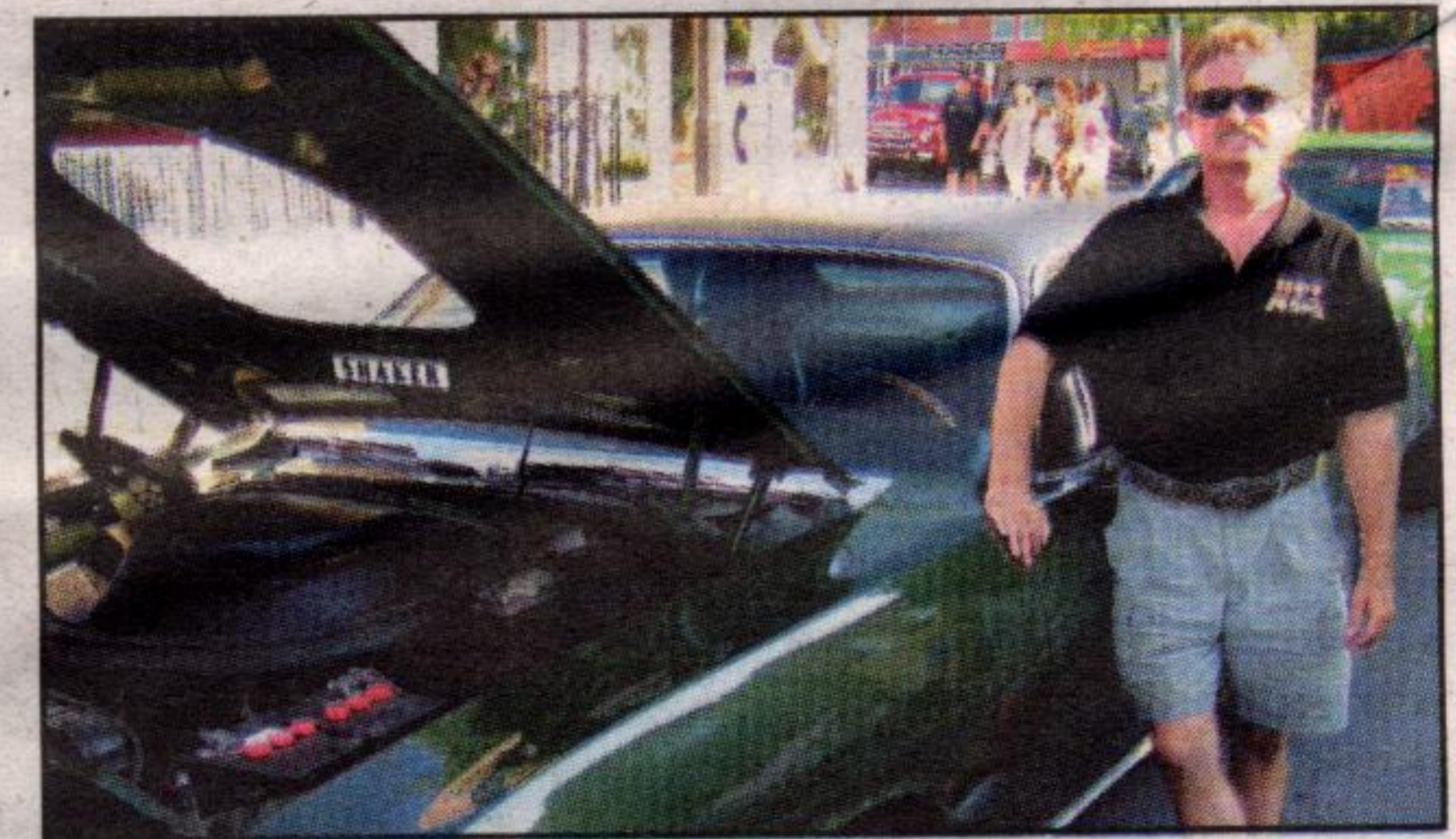
Score: 4/5

microplay

393 Main Street, East, Milton

Halton Pageant correction

In the article about the Miss Halton Pageant, Hot Rods Restaurant was erroneously listed as owned by Lee Martin. In fact, Lee is the Entertainment Manager for Hot Rods, which is owned and operated by Chris Orzech (pictured right). The Halton Compass apologizes for the error.



The Constant Gardener

film review

By Laura Schofield

From the famous director Fernando Meirelles, who also brought audiences the film *City of God*, comes the socio-political spy thriller *The Constant Gardener*. Based on the bestselling novel by John Le Carré, *The Constant Gardener* mixes mystery with a bit of romance. The film follows the character of Justin Quayle (played by Ralph Fiennes), a low level British diplomat who normally keeps his work to himself until the death of his wife. After Tessa's death, Justin becomes determined to find out what happened to his radical wife and gets himself into the middle of a dangerous conspiracy.

Throughout the film, the storyline is often interrupted by flashbacks of Justin and Tessa's relationship. A previously close couple, Justin feels obligated to search for the truth surrounding his wife's death. This makes him a target of some mysterious assailants when Justin sets off on his quest for justice. Being recently widowed, an array of friends

offer their support; Sir Bernard Pellegrin, a British official, and Arnold, an African doctor who might have been a little too friendly with Justin's wife Tessa. Was Justin and Tessa's relationship a lie? Or did her political activism just get in the way of a simpler life?

This film alternates genres between action adventure and romance bringing the audience surprise after surprise. With a mixed cast of old and new, including Ralph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz, Danny Huston, Bill Nighy and Danielle Harford, everyone gives strong performances and plays very complex characters that continue to reveal themselves throughout the film. With a running time of a hundred and thirty minutes in length, *The Constant Gardener* is rated R, for language, some violent images and sexual content. For a multifaceted and thrilling adventure film that holds your interest until the end, be sure and go see *The Constant Gardener* this week!