

# Sing that country music

STORY AND PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

Take a quick glance towards the dance floor at a Bareback Riders show and you might be surprised at what you see. From the young men in baseball caps and "Hilfiger" sweatshirts and the fresh faced girls in tank tops and pastel coloured cowboy hats to the middle aged men wearing faded Jack Daniels t-shirts as they twirl their best girl around the dance floor, everyone seems to love the Bareback Riders. And, if the enthusiastic reaction from the under twenty-five crowd is any indication; this is clearly a new generation of country music.

The band's popularity took a huge surge recently when they won the Corus Entertainment Cross Country Battle of the Bands, beating out over 100 other bands for a grand prize of studio recording time and the privilege of acting as the opening act at the Country 95.3 Fm Canada Day celebrations. They were a hit with the crowd of 40,000 and spent over an hour and a half signing autographs following their set. The next day, a 95.3 FM poll saw them receive 70% of the vote as the favourite performers for the event. "We were absolutely blown away that they would put us on the list," says an awed Colin Connors, drummer for the band. "It was an incredible honour."

It's hard to believe that the band debated even entering the contest in the first place. "The contest forced us out of our comfort zone," admits Colin. Bandmate and steel guitar player Joe Allain is quick to point out the positive aspect of the contest. "One of the greatest incentives was doing original songs, Bareback Riders' songs," he says. He laughs when he recalls the scramble to write and rehearse the original song "Ride" a scant four days before the contest. "When the guys came in with the first two original songs, we wanted to go one further and include a 3rd original song. It turned out great. It's a combination of bluegrass, rock and country." For songwriter and bass player Chris Mancini, it's an interesting experience to find himself, now in studio with the band, recording his original song. "It's exciting and strange," he says quietly. "What I wrote was nothing but words and chords until the guys worked their ideas into the finished product."

That air of cooperation and camaraderie is apparent whenever the band is together. "It's not about one person," insists lead vocalist Cory Gallant. "We make it a group experience and we have fun." Joe is quick to agree with that saying that "From my experience, we have something special here. Relationships are good and the attitudes are good." Joe, who is a Quality Assurance/Quality Control Coordinator for the Region of Halton, joins the others in teasing Cory about his recent decision to take on a day job, along with his Bareback Rider duties. "When we get together, it's all worth it," says Joe though, in all seriousness, when asked about the difficulties of balancing day jobs with band performances. "This is all about having fun."

"These guys are awesome, one of our favourite bands," enthuses Joe Indoe of the Stampede Ranch in Guelph. The Bareback Riders can often be found on stage at the Ranch or the Stampede Corral in Kitchener, and recently played to an enthusiastic crowd at the Milton District Hospital Fundraiser, *Blazing Saddles*. Coming up on their schedule is a Habitat for Humanity fundraiser in Brantford on October 8 and three days of shows at the Stampede Ranch in Guelph on October 27, 28, 29. More information on these shows and more can be found on the band's website at [www.barebackriders.ca](http://www.barebackriders.ca).

The Bareback Riders are currently in the studio recording "Ride" for play on FM 95.3. Cory will lay down the final vocal tracks on October 2, and then the band will begin preparations for the filming of a video to go with the single. In light of that, Joe laughingly recalls the band's early days. "It was only supposed to be eight summer gigs and we're still together," he says of the band that is poised to become an overnight success after seven years in the business. "These are an excellent bunch of guys," explains Kevin Bushey, manager and guitarist. "They are a phenomenal group of musicians, I wouldn't want to be in any other band."



Taking a break between sets are the Bareback Riders (left to right): Mark Mancini, Kevin Bushey, Chris mancini, Cory Gallant, Colin Connors and Joe Allain.



The Regional Municipality of Halton



NEW

## GreenCart Demonstration Program

### Collection starts the week of October 3, 2005



**What:** The GreenCart is like a Blue Box for your kitchen scraps. Kitchen scraps (including meat and bones), paper towels, coffee grounds and more will now be collected at the curb in the GreenCart, instead of in a regular garbage bag.

**Who:** Five neighbourhoods across Halton Region are participating in the GreenCart demonstration program. (See maps below.)

**GreenCart collection will occur every week on the same day as your regular garbage collection. Please set out your GreenCart beside your garbage.**

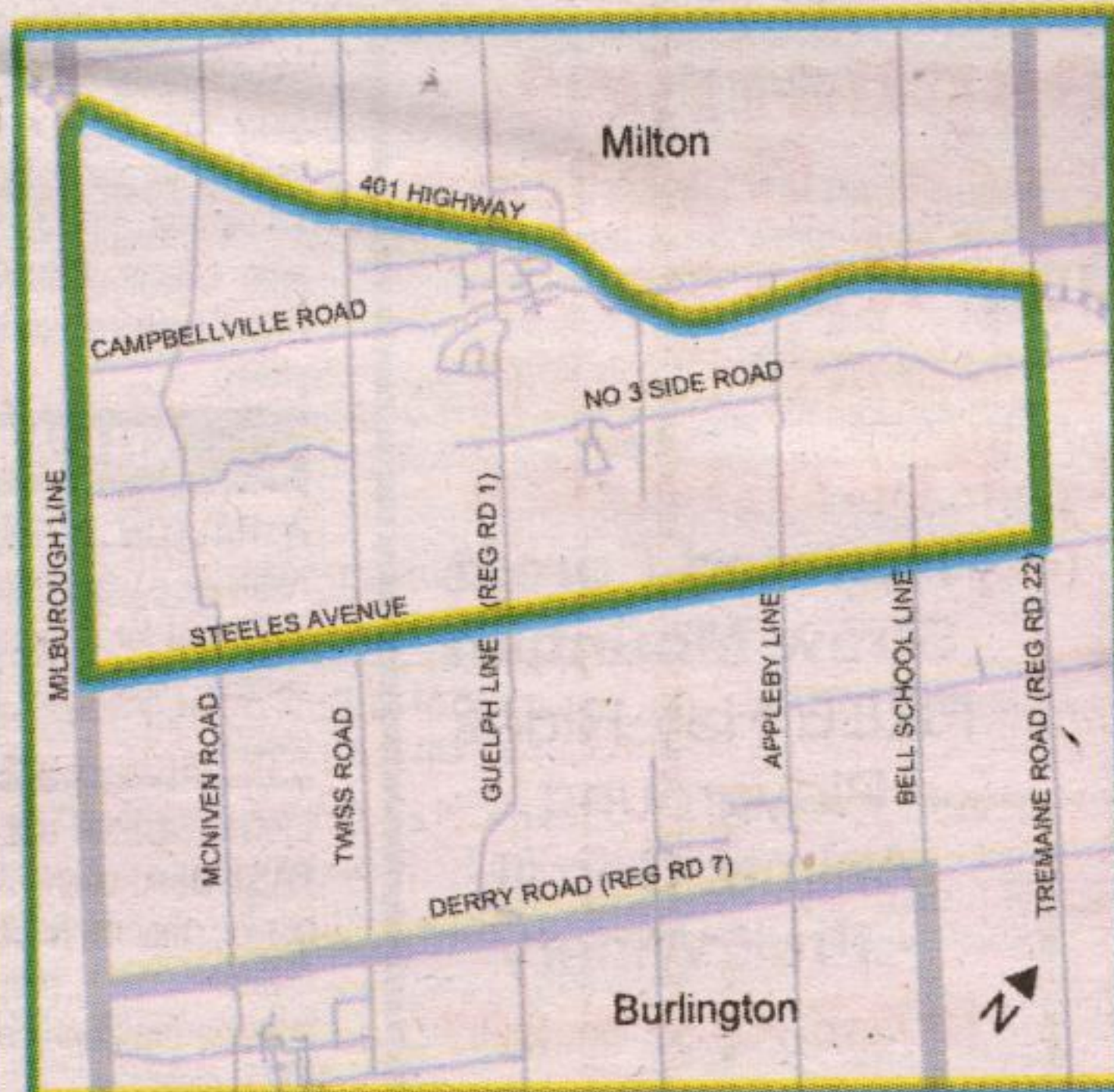
All residents within the demonstration areas received their GreenCart, Kitchen Catcher and information package between September 6 and September 15, 2005. If you are in the demonstration area and did not receive a cart during this time, please contact us at the number below.

The demonstration program will be evaluated during the first year of collection and processing, and will help us to develop the GreenCart program for the entire Region.

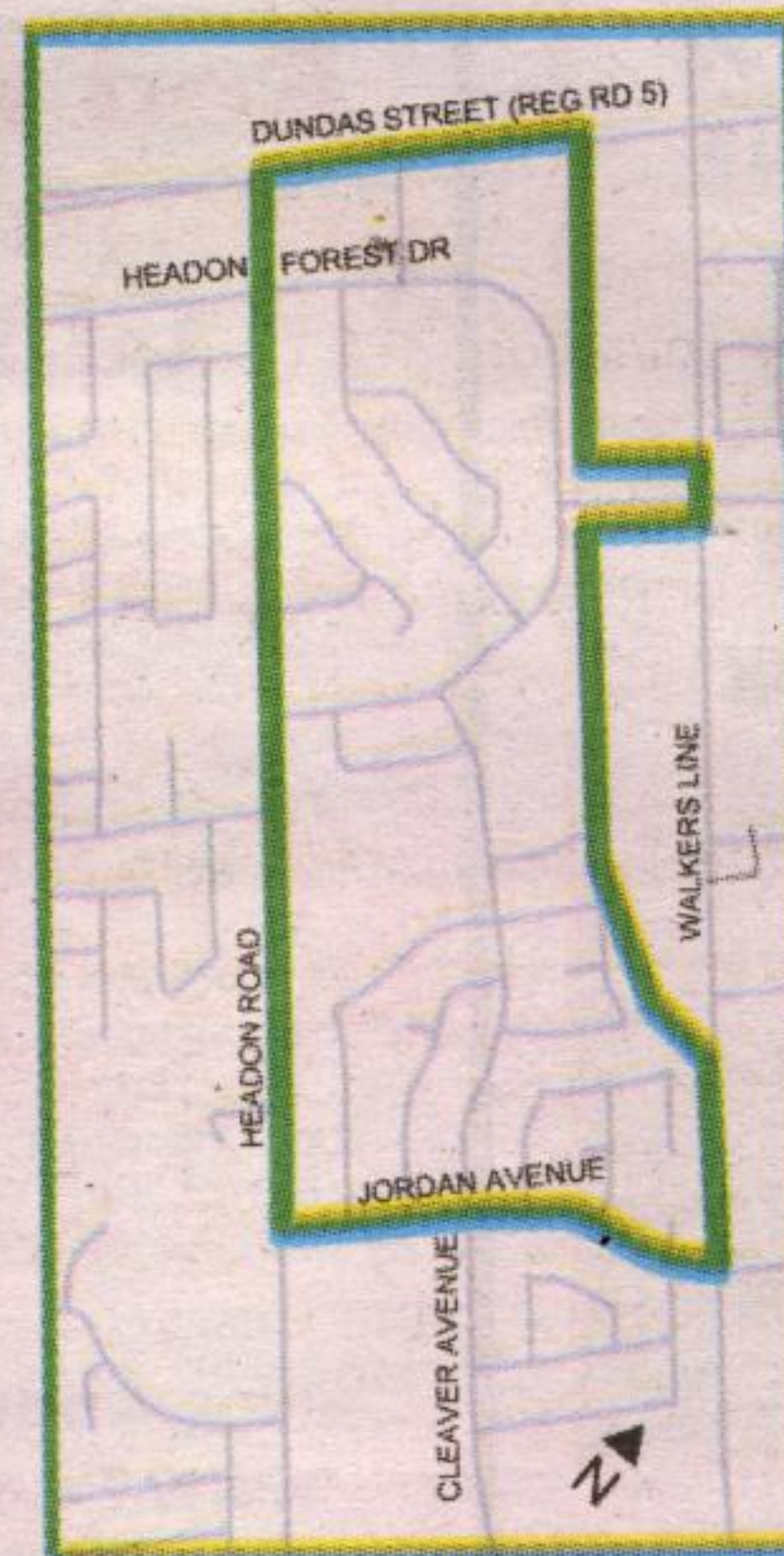
**Why:** Around 45% of the average garbage bag in Halton is made up of food scraps and other organic material that could be turned into compost. We need to get this material out of the garbage to help extend the lifespan of our landfill, so it can keep working for Halton residents for years to come.

Questions? Comments? Give us a call. If you would like to learn more about Halton's new GreenCart program, visit the website at [www.region.halton.on.ca/ppw/waste/greencart](http://www.region.halton.on.ca/ppw/waste/greencart)

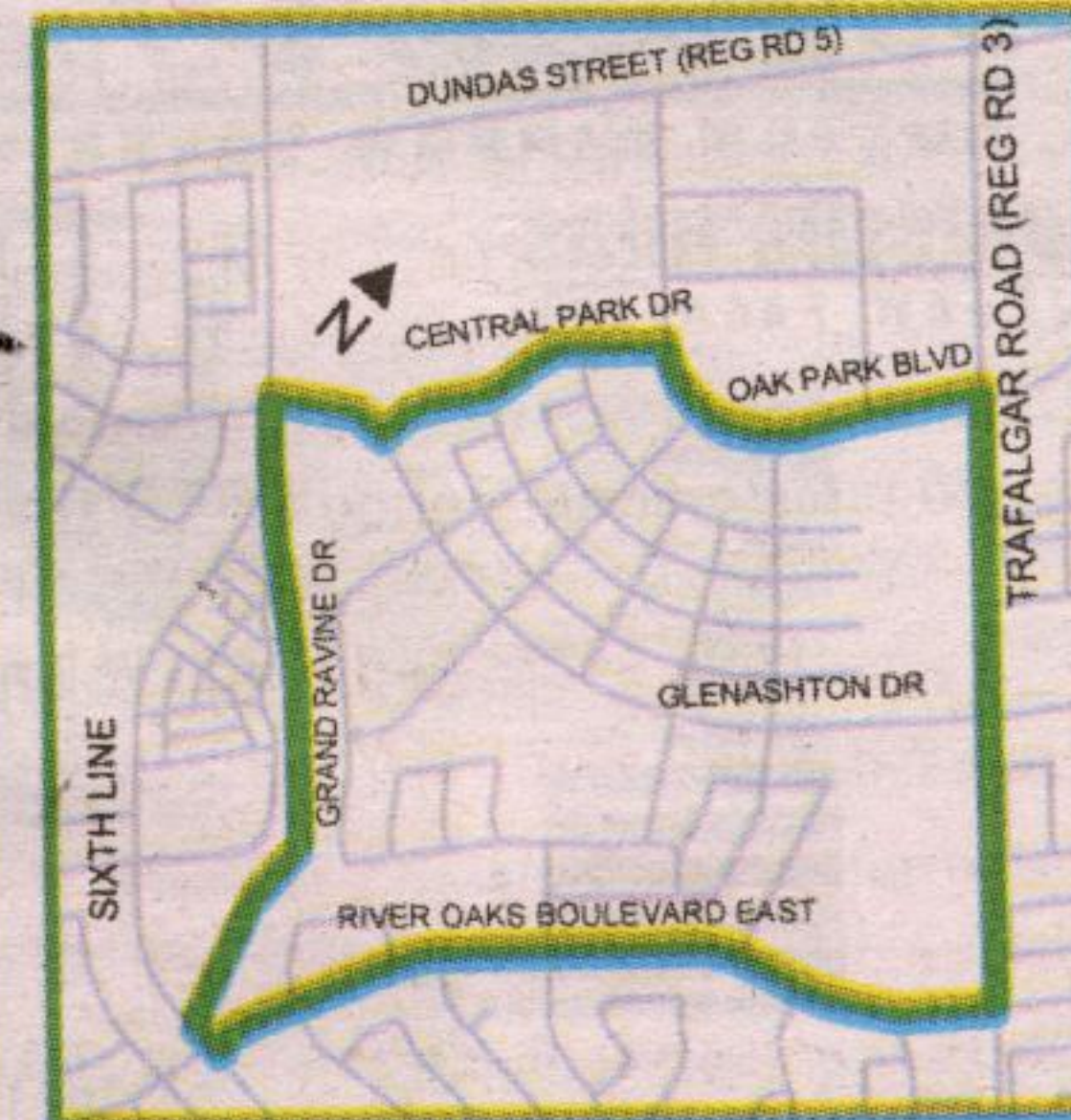
### Demonstration Program Areas



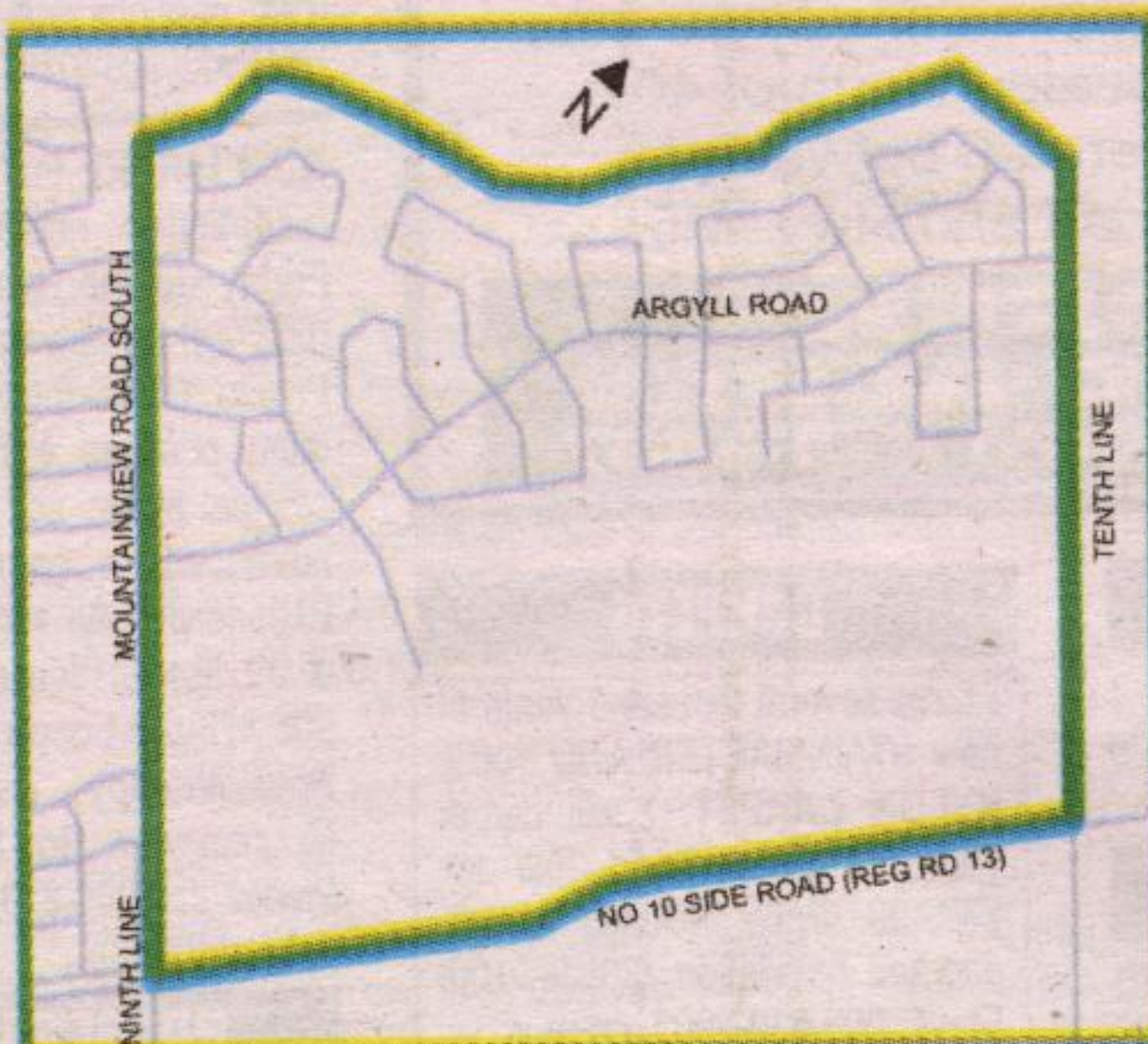
Rural Milton Tuesday



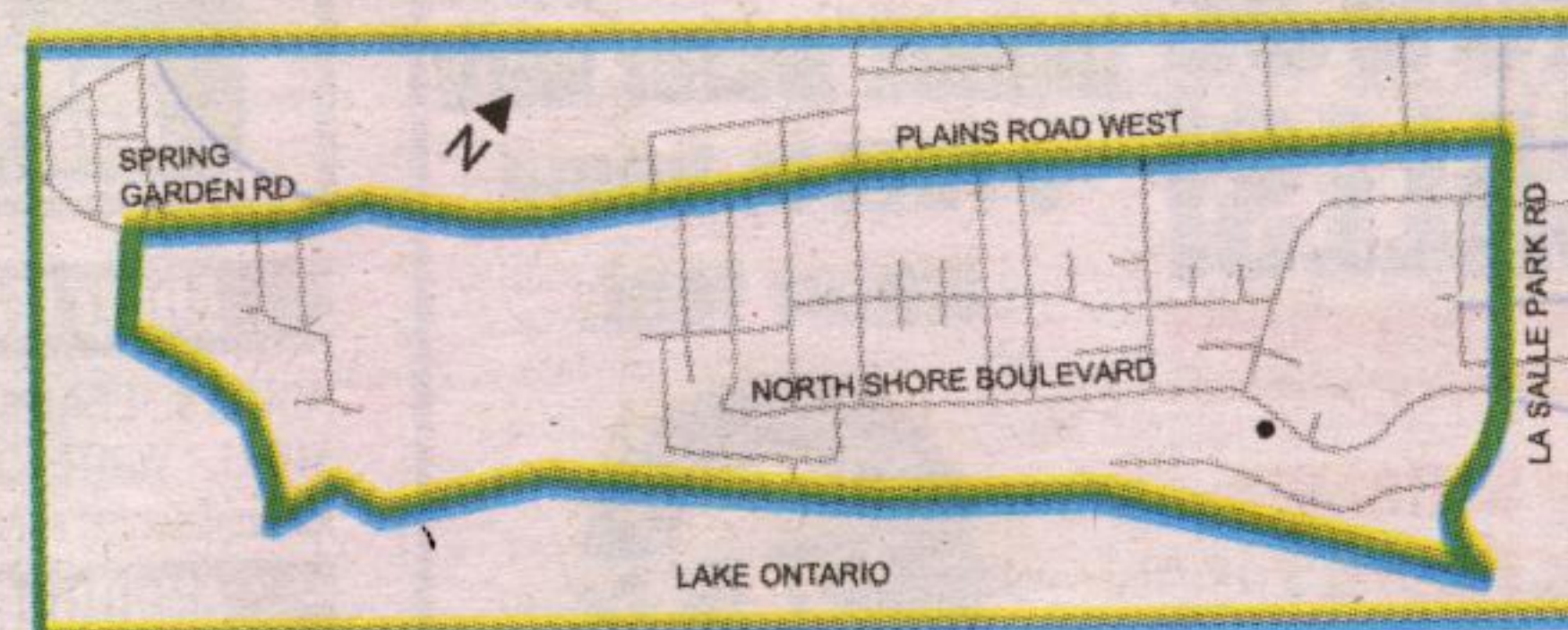
Burlington Thursday D



Oakville Friday D



Georgetown Wednesday B



Burlington Monday A

1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1

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