

Messing around with boats

Helen Hendry's abstract Art Show

By ANN KORNUA

Burlington artist Helen Hendry's show *The Power of Shape* features abstract depictions of the design and structure of boats. The exhibition is at the Fireside Lounge in the Burlington Art Centre 1333 Lakeshore Road and will continue until October 25th.

Helen, a Montreal native now living in Burlington has been exhibited since

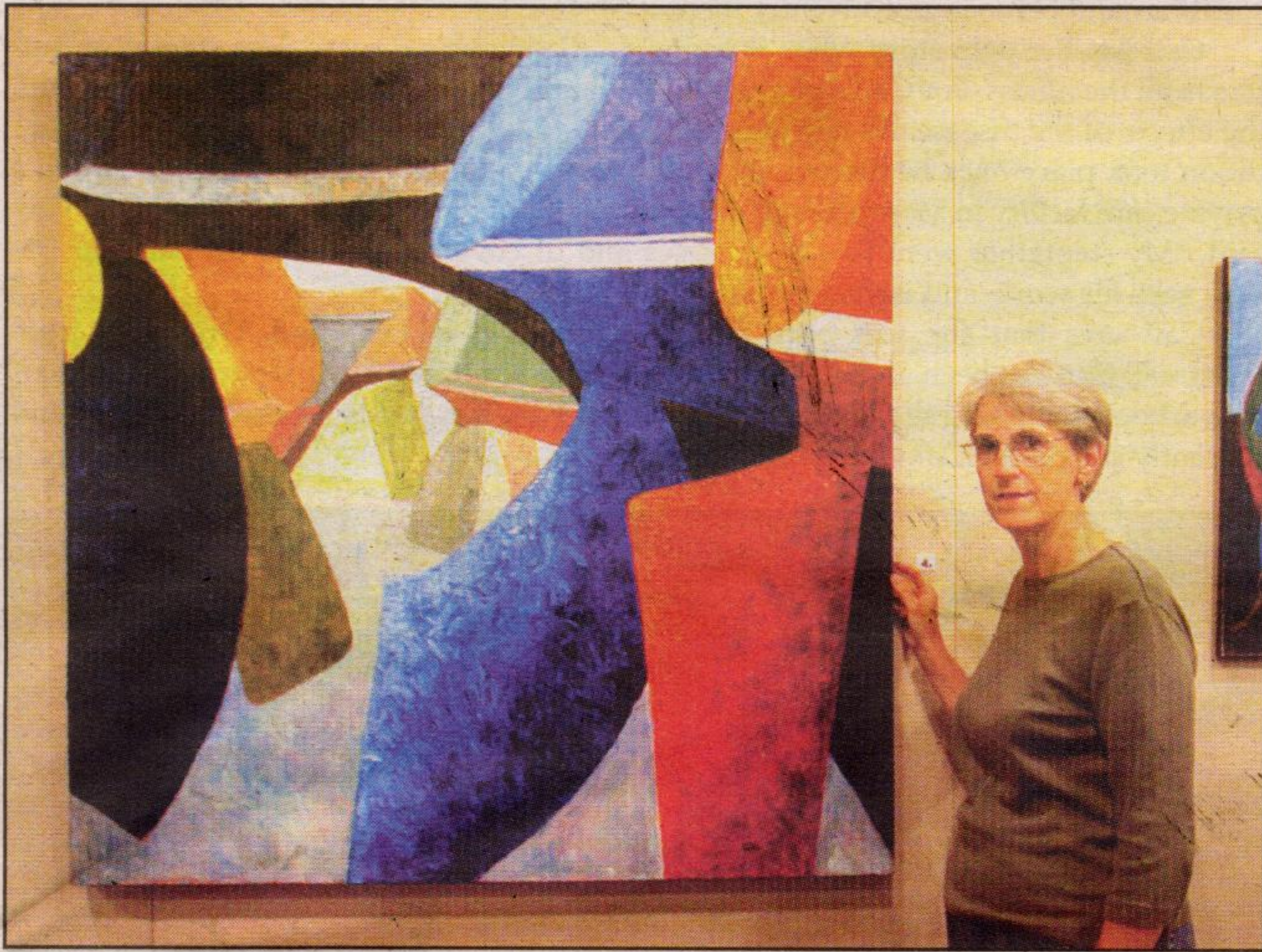
1980 in and around Halton. She teaches at the Oakville Art Society and has won numerous awards for her work including juror's choice in the Art of Halton juried exhibition in 1997, and Oakville Art Society's juried exhibition in 2004.

The Power of Shape show features triptych and diptych paintings. Helen has compiled this collection with bright

colours that express joy while following her abstract theme. The collection is a combination of acrylic and oil pieces that pull the viewer into an understanding of the subject matter within the work. "People who look at them don't see what is there until they read the titles," Helen explains. "The shapes of boats can be put together to make a great painting."

The streamlined shapes of the hulls and rudders make strong and sharp forms. Her inspiration for the show came from spending afternoons with her husband boating with the Oakville squadron. Helen explains. "When the boats were pulled out of the water for the winter my husband told me to look at the abstract form of the rudder and the hull of the boat. I was amazed with its strong sharp form."

Visit the Fireside Lounge in the Burlington Art Centre and check out the show 9am to 10pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm on Saturday, and noon to 5pm on Sundays. To contact the Fireside Lounge, you can call 905-632-7796 ex 307



Helen Hendry's *The Power of Shape* art show is running until October 25th at the Fireside Lounge at the Burlington Art Center in Burlington.

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V is for Voles

There are a number of four legged furry rodents that can invade our gardens and sometimes our homes, and voles, also called meadow mice, are one of them. Not to be confused with moles which are not rodents, voles are the main culprits that girdle small trees, shrubs and fruit trees. They will also construct extensive runways on the surface of lawns, leading to shallow burrows in winter time. Heavy snow cover often results in greater damage to lawns.

Voles are larger than house mice. They have small eyes and ears, short tails and heavy set bodies. They can range from 13 to 18 cm in length. Their fur is usually dark brown with pale underbellies. Voles feed mainly on grasses and seeds. They remain active throughout the winter being protected by snow cover. They are active during the day and night and have a range of about 1/4 of an acre. Damage to trees and shrubs is usually done at ground level and complete girdling will result in the death of the tree or shrub. Vole populations vary widely from year to year. They periodically have high population eruptions and it is during these periods that extensive damage often occurs. Numbers in excess of 1500 voles per acre can occur in apple orchards resulting in serious crop reductions. Predators such as coyotes, fox, hawks and domestic 'mousers' feed heavily on voles during these population peaks. Meadow mice will occasionally enter homes or businesses but unlike house mice will not usually breed and multiply within buildings. Although these rodents are more common around country properties they are found in towns and especially in industrial areas that have extensive lawns and landscaping.

Control of voles can be difficult, especially in winter when damage goes undetected beneath the snow and is often not noticed until the spring. Seedlings and young fruit trees can be wrapped with protective guards and/or painted with a repellent such as scoot. In the fall, clip long grass and weeds and remove mulch away from the base of trees and shrubs. Traps such as snap traps baited with peanut butter or multiple catch traps will work. Rodenticides are also effective against voles. Rodenticides, when used outdoors, should be placed in rodent bait stations which will prevent non target animals such as dogs from eating the baits. Effective bait stations for home orchards or tree plantings can be made using 1 1/2 inch PVC pipe in the shape of an inverted 'T' and staking them between the trees.

Winter is coming and so are the rodents. Along with all the other fall chores, do a quick rodent proofing check of your house. Prevention now, may save you from that poke in the back on a cold winter night from your wife with the words all husbands dread; "did you hear that noise?"

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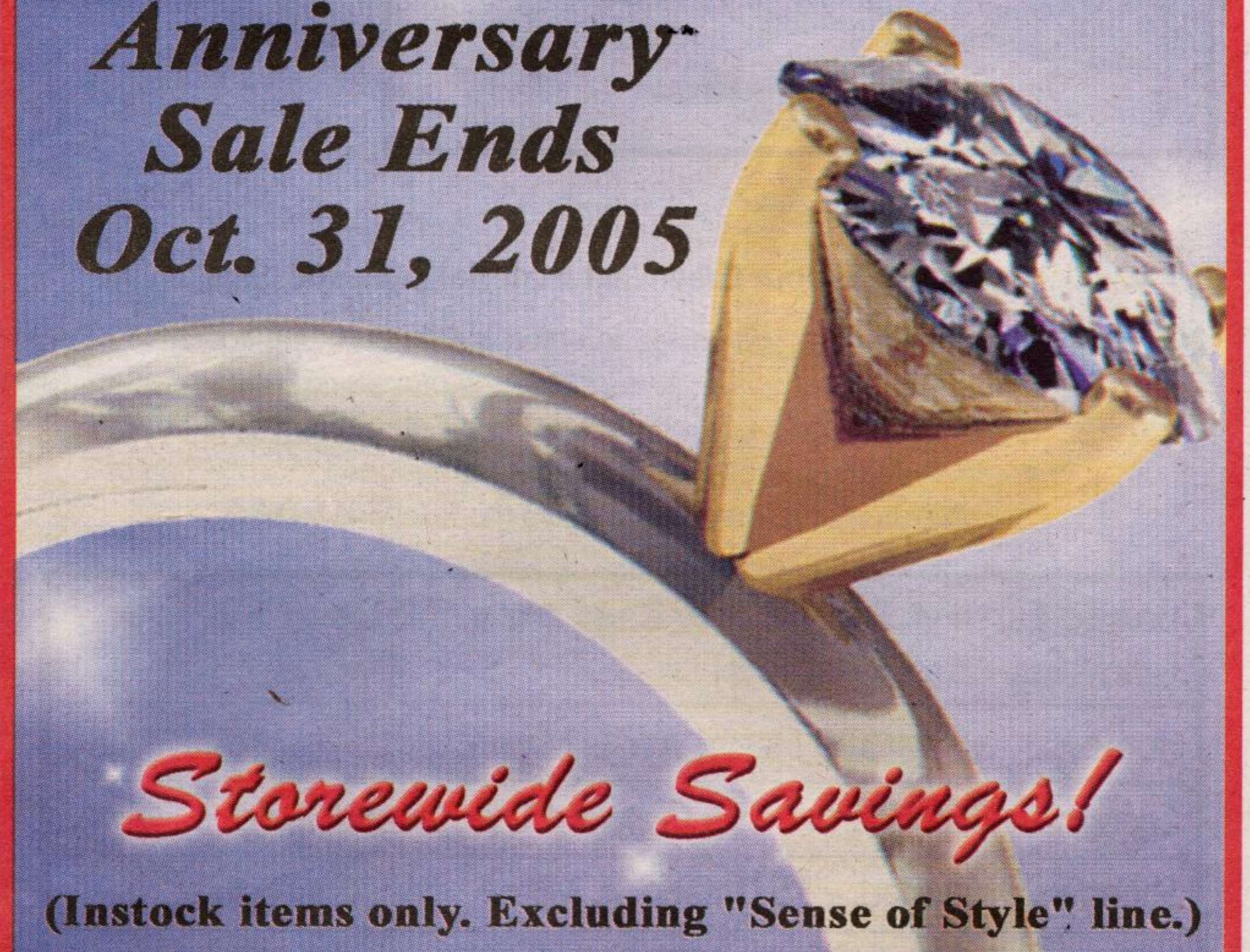
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