

Willow Park Ecology Centre to officially open Saturday

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and the beautiful weather. Activity in the town never ceases.

Saturday, September 26, at 11 a.m. is the official opening of the Willow Park Ecology Centre. It will be an exciting day thanks to Councillor Kathy Gastle and the T.E.A.C. Committee under the Chairmanship of Bryan Boyce.

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The third community meeting of the North Halton Transportation Study hosted by the Region of Halton generated the interest of more than 100 people. The challenge to make the transportation routes meet the needs of our citizens is enormous. The next meeting will be scheduled for sometime in November. The consultant will be assessing alternatives. Watch the newspaper for the proper date.

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The tax bills are out. Payment dates are September 30 and October 28. The town phones have been ringing. I thank the town's finance department for the fine job they are doing responding to inquiries at such a difficult time. Many people have told me how sensitive and competent they are in respond-

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Marilyn Serjeantson

ing to your concerns. I will take this opportunity to remind residential and business taxpayers that they can pay property taxes through the pre-authorized tax payment plan over a 10-month period.

If you intend to challenge your provincial property assessment, do it immediately. Forms are available at the town's finance department.

The Phase-In Program for tax payments has been automatically applied to properties that qualify under the provincial regulations and regional policy. To qualify for the Phase-In Program, residential properties must have a tax increase due to assessment over 15 per cent and the increase must also be greater than \$300. Tax increases due to provincial

downloading, changes and pooling do not qualify for the phase-in. A typical Halton Hills tax bill has a tax increase as a result of provincial changes of 4.3 per cent and a tax increase due to provincial mandated tax shifts of 1.7 per cent.

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I am a member of the Halton Hills Community Support and Information—a multi-service organization supporting people of all ages in the development of a caring and responsive community. It is incredible all the services that this group provides for our citizens, particularly seniors. There are two office locations. One is in Acton at the old town hall, and the other is in Georgetown at the Indoor Mall near the Beaver Lumber store on Guelph Street.

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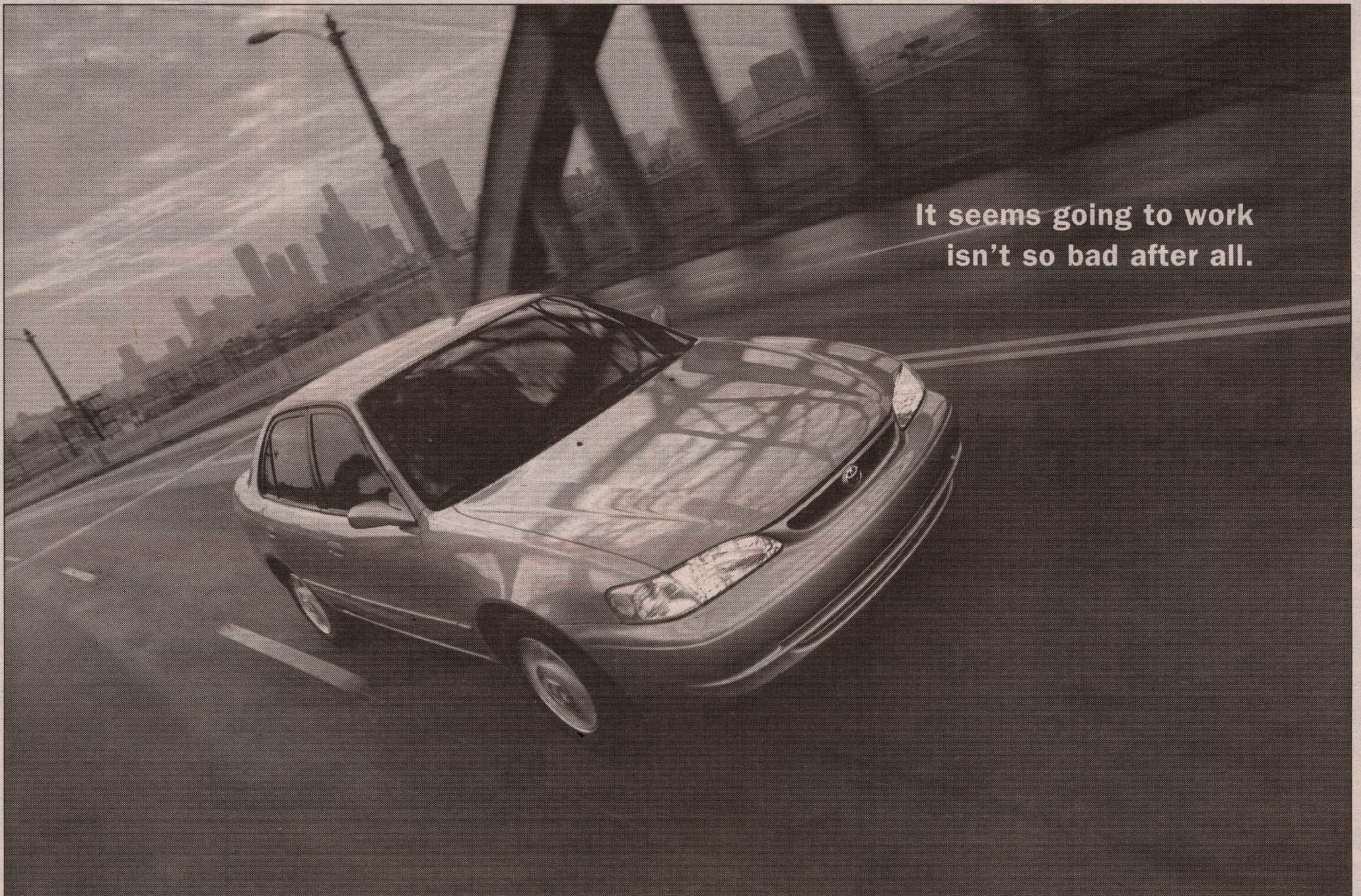
Last week the Farm Tour was organized by the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee. The farm tour visitation destinations were mostly in Halton Hills. They included Jim Reid's Towervue Farm, Nick DiGirolamo Greenhouses and Allison's Farm Market. Supper was served at Hillcrest United Church. Agriculture is a \$40 million business in Halton Hills.

Police cruiser stolen from headquarters

Halton Police are investigating the theft of a police cruiser from Halton police headquarters on Bronte Rd. in Oakville that occurred sometime between Friday and Monday.

Police say the cruiser had been forcibly entered and the ignition tampered with. The cruiser was recovered at about 7 a.m. Monday at Applewood Plaza in Mississauga. The accelerator of the car had been rigged so that it was fully depressed, and it was left in drive so it crossed the parking lot and struck two parked vehicles. No one was injured.

Anyone with any information on the incident is asked to call police at 878-5511 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.



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