



Mayor Kathy Gastle makes her opening remarks at the Hornby Association of Rate Payers' all-candidates meeting for Ward 2 residents Wednesday night. Also attending were mayoralty candidates, regional chair candidates and Wards 1/2 regional council candidates. Local Ward 2 councillors Bryan Lewis and Joan Robson have been acclaimed. From left were regional council candidate Drew Riedstra, mayoralty candidates Marilyn Serjeantson and Rick Bonnette, regional chair candidate Joyce Savoline, and Gastle, a mayoralty candidate. Photo by Lisa Tallyn

Mayoralty candidates face their voters

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Serjeantson was asked if she planned to take a leave of absence from her job with Halton Hills United Way during the campaign because the questioner thought it was inappropriate for her to be paid by a public agency while pursuing employment elsewhere.

"Part of the reason I did enter this race as late as I did is because I did have a job and I am part of the campaign," said Serjeantson.

She said she will not be asking people for financial support for her campaign.

"If somebody asked me to leave I would but if you leave in the middle of a job, am I going to do more harm by doing that or going into the office, working in the office, and other people can go out and be the public focus?" said Serjeantson.

Rick Bonnette, also running for the

mayor's job, was asked what he could do as mayor that he couldn't do in all his years on council.

Bonnette said in the past, due to restrictions, he hasn't been able to tackle the industrial base issue.

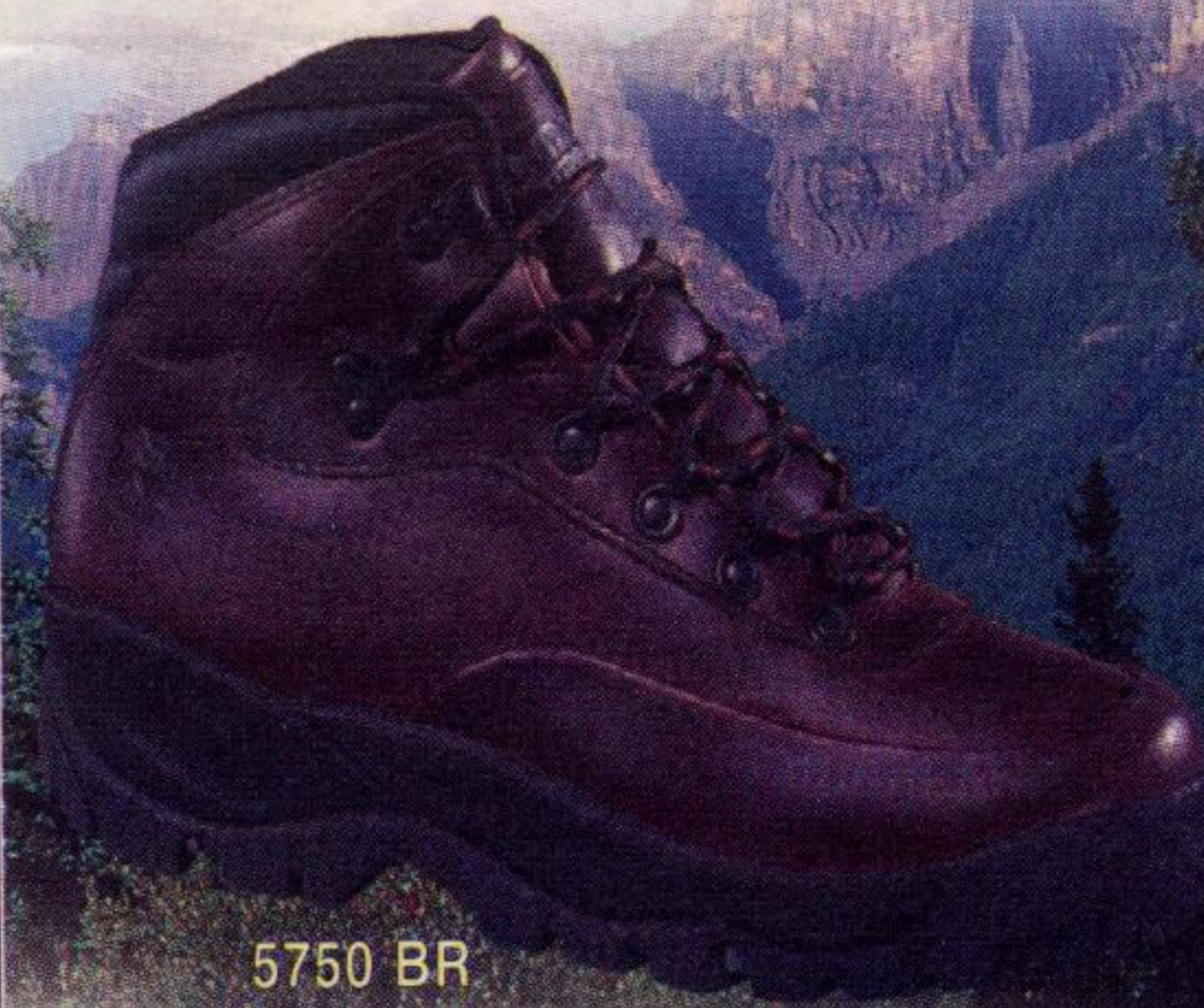
"Now that we have had money put forth in the 401 Corridor that is something that I want to see, along with any member of council elected in the next term— work toward improving our industrial base," said Bonnette. He said currently Halton Hills industrial base versus residential is the lowest in the GTA.

Other questions thrown at the candidates dealt with preserving the farming community, if they supported lake-based water for Halton Hills, pesticide use, and how they would develop a mass transit system.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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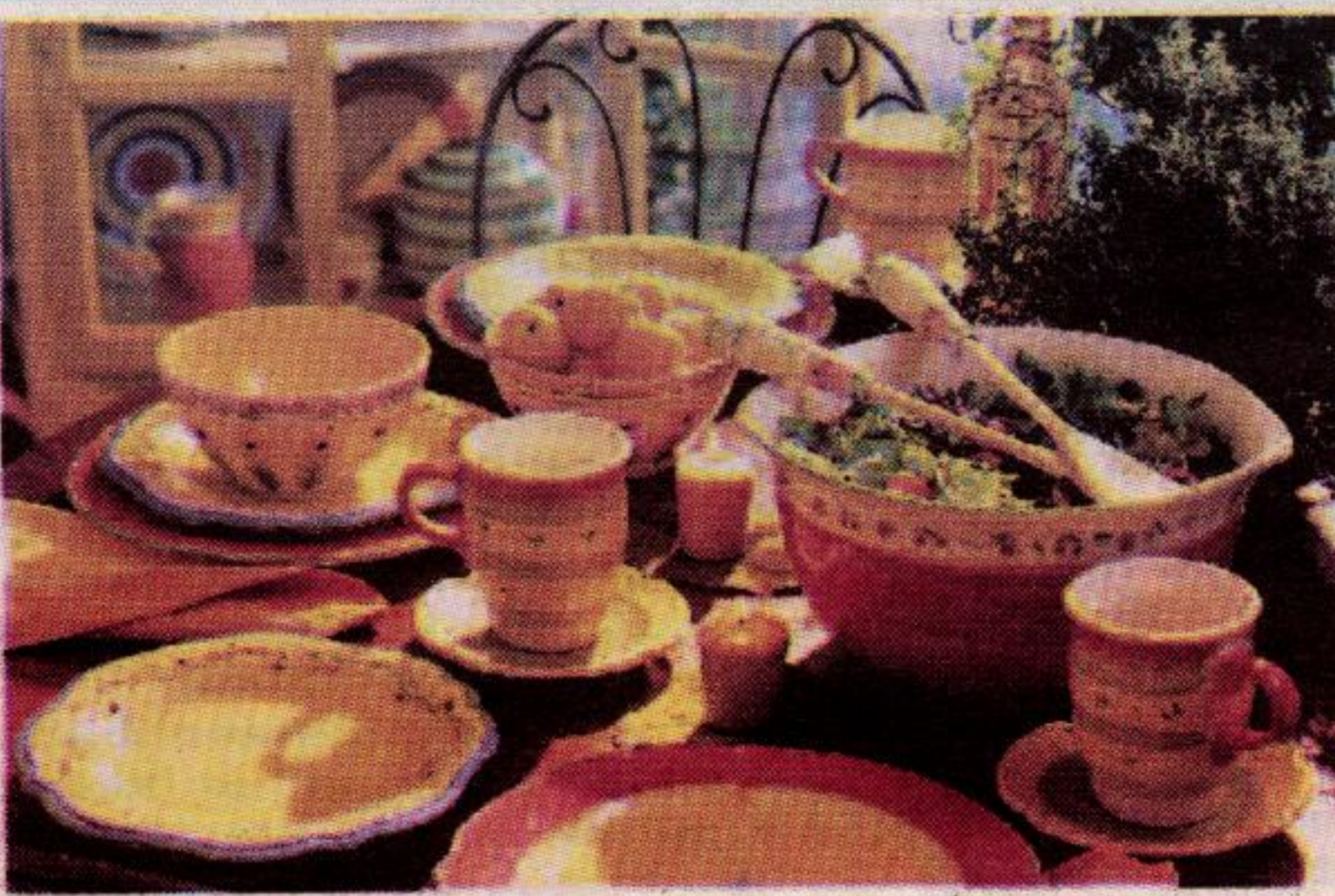
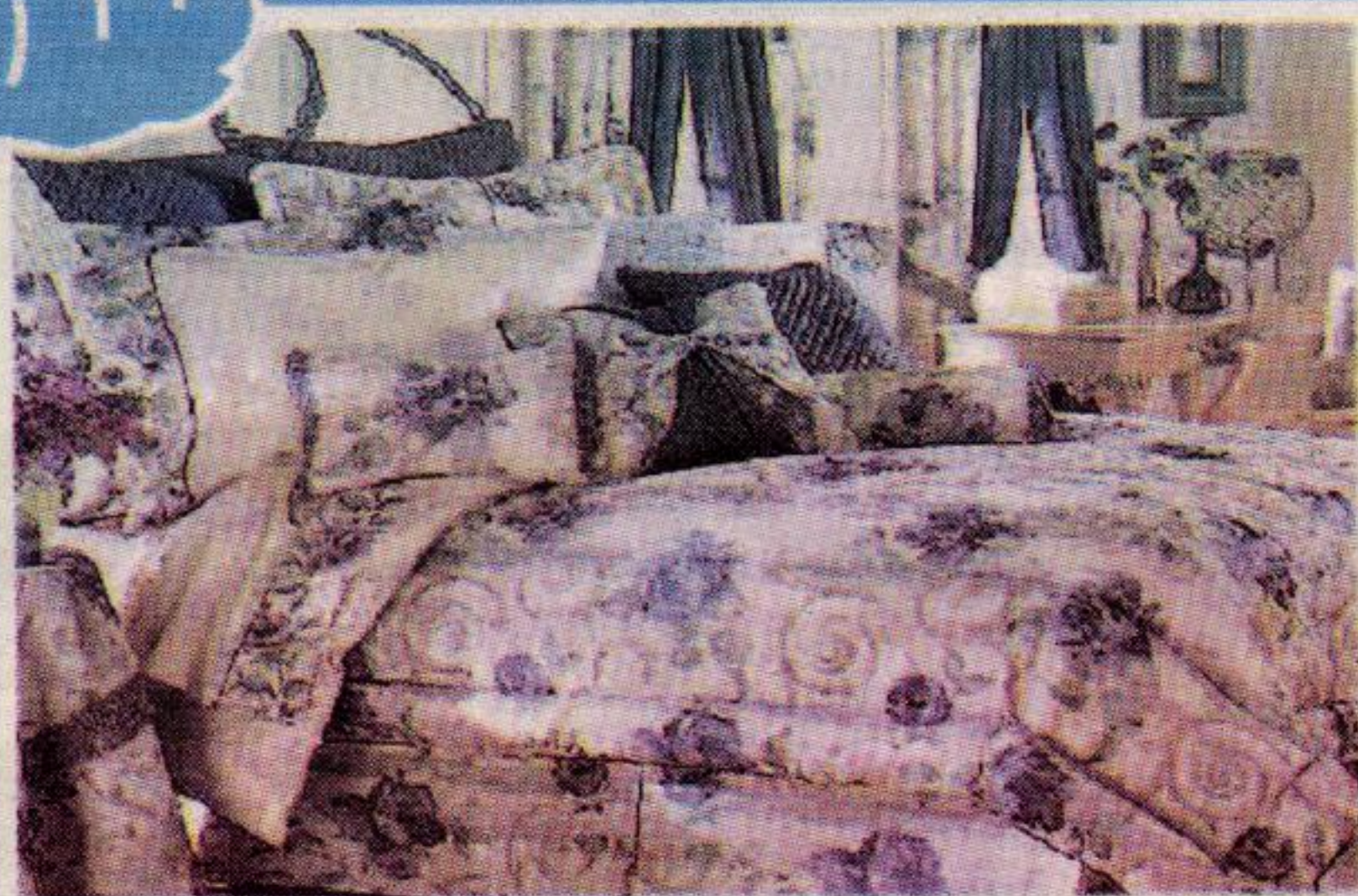
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