

# Eyesore or addition?

## Barn-like 'monstrosity' lowers property values, say neighbours

A large barn-style garage recently built at 75 Joycelyn Cr. is being called a "monstrosity" by some neighbours who believe it has devalued their property.

"I can't believe that's acceptable in our area," said rear neighbour Christina Huras of Ruddell Cr. "It's way oversized."

The 660 sq. ft. gambrel-roofed garage is approximately 22 ft. tall (at the peak of the roof) and the same width, said the Town of Halton Hills' manager of zoning Brian Murdoch.

Huras believes the structure, which she referred to as a "monstrosity", has decreased her property value because "we have no privacy."

"The whole character of our property has changed," she said. "We are now thinking about selling."

Murdoch said the garage is three feet away from the side property line, and approximately 14 ft. from the rear property line. He also said it adheres to the town's zoning bylaw, which came into effect in 1957. That bylaw, which has no requirements for rear or side setbacks, permits accessory buildings to be 15 ft. tall to the mid-height point

of the roof. Murdoch said a discrepancy of approximately six inches in height identified by the town, has been remedied by the garage owner by making some minor alterations.

Murdoch would not release the name of the garage owner, however, P.R. Payne is listed in the phone book as the resident at the address. After repeated phone calls to the Payne home, the residents declined to comment.

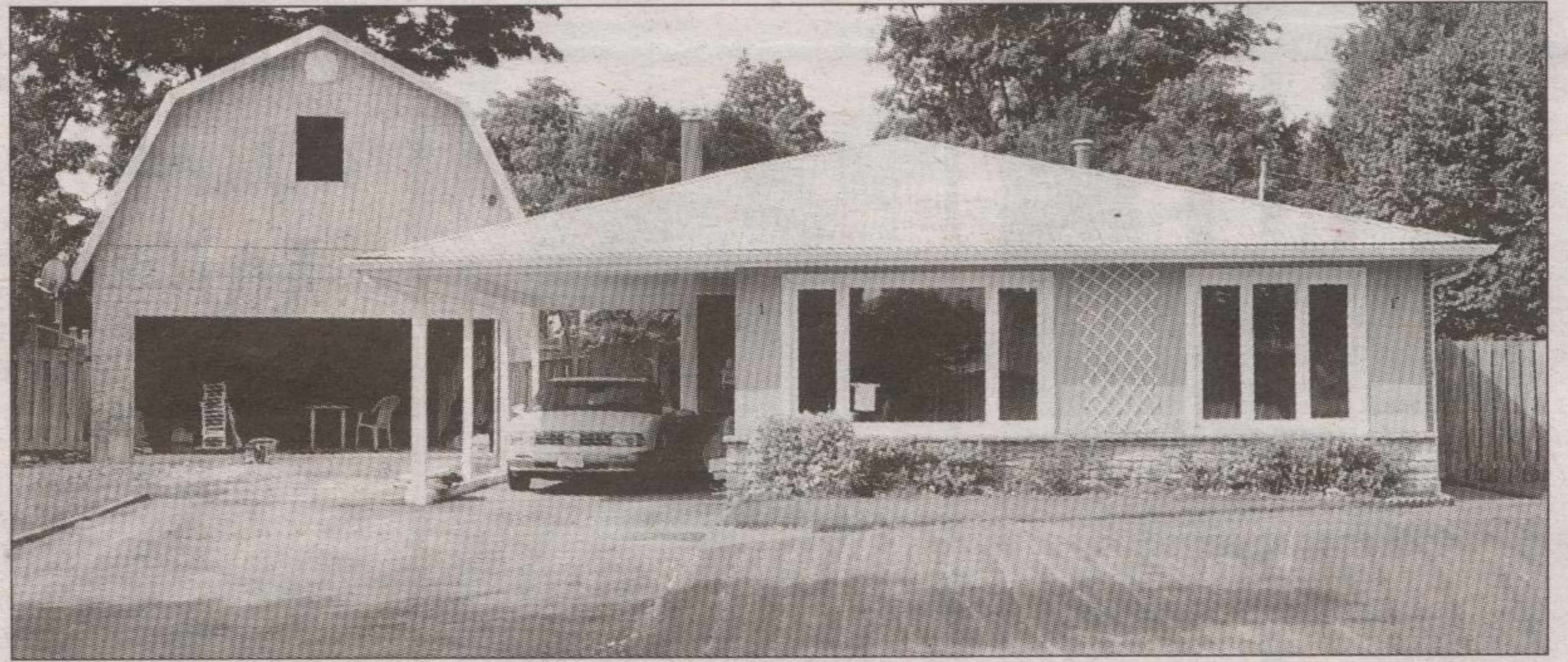
Jeff Pierog, of Ruddell Cr. who lives behind the garage, said he now has a "huge window looking into the rear of my yard."

"It's not aesthetically-pleasing in the neighbourhood," said Pierog, who added he now has to spend thousands of dollars on trees "so I don't have to stare at this thing."

"This monstrosity has reduced property values around here," he said.

"It's totally disproportionate to the rest of the street," said Johanna Wall, who lives in the home adjacent to the garage.

She believes in the winter the snow will build up between the garage and her yard, killing her garden.



Neighbours of this home at 75 Joycelyn Cres. are upset with the homeowners recent building of an addition, which they say lowers area property values. Photo by Ted

She said she used to enjoy relaxing in her pool and gazing up at the sky, but now her view "is all barn."

"I can't believe that the (town) would look at those plans and wouldn't consider that we have a bungalow and they have a 1-1/2 storey...and that they would approve a two-storey construction," said Wall.

She believes by approving the garage the town has pitted one neighbour against the other.

She added her fiancé feels the garage will devalue their property.

"If he had it his way, he'd move tomorrow," she said.

"I know if it was next door to me I'd be pretty upset," said Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

But he added the property owner followed the regulations

specified by the town.

"I think that's why we need to look at the comprehensive zoning bylaw," said Bonnette.

"There will be some discus-

sion amongst councillors and staff," about the issue, said Bonnette.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

## Local man killed in crash

Continued from pg. 1  
the northeast shoulder.

Toperczer was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the Cougar and Duquette were not injured.

Duquette was charged with impaired driving causing death and refuse breath sample.

Police are seeking witnesses to the accident. Anyone with information is asked to call 905-453-3311, ext. 3710.

Toperczer's stepmother, Terry Toperczer of Brampton, said her stepson was returning

home after spending time with clients when the accident happened. He and his brother Chris owned a Mississauga employment agency, Toper Temps, in Mississauga.

She said Toperczer had moved to Georgetown with his wife Cathy last year after living in Brampton for several years. He was originally from Toronto, she said.

"Kevin was the most outgoing full of life person," she said.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

# Reg-e set to take charge in town recreation department

Convenience and immediacy are the watchwords when the Town of Halton Hills' Recreation Department launches Reg-e — its on-line registration system on Dec. 1.

"It's convenient. It's easy. It gives people instant confirmation that they are in the program," says Manager of Recreation Services Joy Thompson. "The other benefit is that it processes their financial payment instantaneous and that's more efficient."

Residents will be able to register from any computer or telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week, using either a VISA or MasterCard, she says. Surveys have shown that more people sign up for recreation programs if they can do it on-line, rather than waiting in line.

Besides the convenience, there's the immediacy of knowing whether you or your children are registered in the program of your choice. Due to the growing community and the addition of the Gellert Centre, registration is up — 650 more kids than last year signed up for town camps this summer and the number signing up for the aquatics this fall is well over 350. For years, to deal with the

growing numbers and the limited program space, the recreation department has used a lottery system, leading to many complaints.

Reg-e will eliminate the lottery and this will appease a lot of families, who'd prefer to know immediately if they're registered, says Thompson.

As well, because registration is up, the Town either had to hire more registrars or move to the automated computer/telephone system (\$75,000). The latter is cheaper in the long run, says Thompson.

Reg-e is just taking baby steps this winter by allowing residents to sign up on-line for only the Winter 2005 Aquatic Learn to Swim and Advanced Lifesaving programs. In the spring, Reg-e takes the giant leap and residents can sign up for all of the recreation department's programs (with a few exceptions such as skating passes). For those who don't own a computer, the town is setting up computer kiosks at the Civic Centre, Gellert Centre and Acton Arena later this fall. Library computers can also be used.

And for people who haven't even made the leap to the computer age, the town will launch Tele-Reg, a telephone

registration system, at the same time.

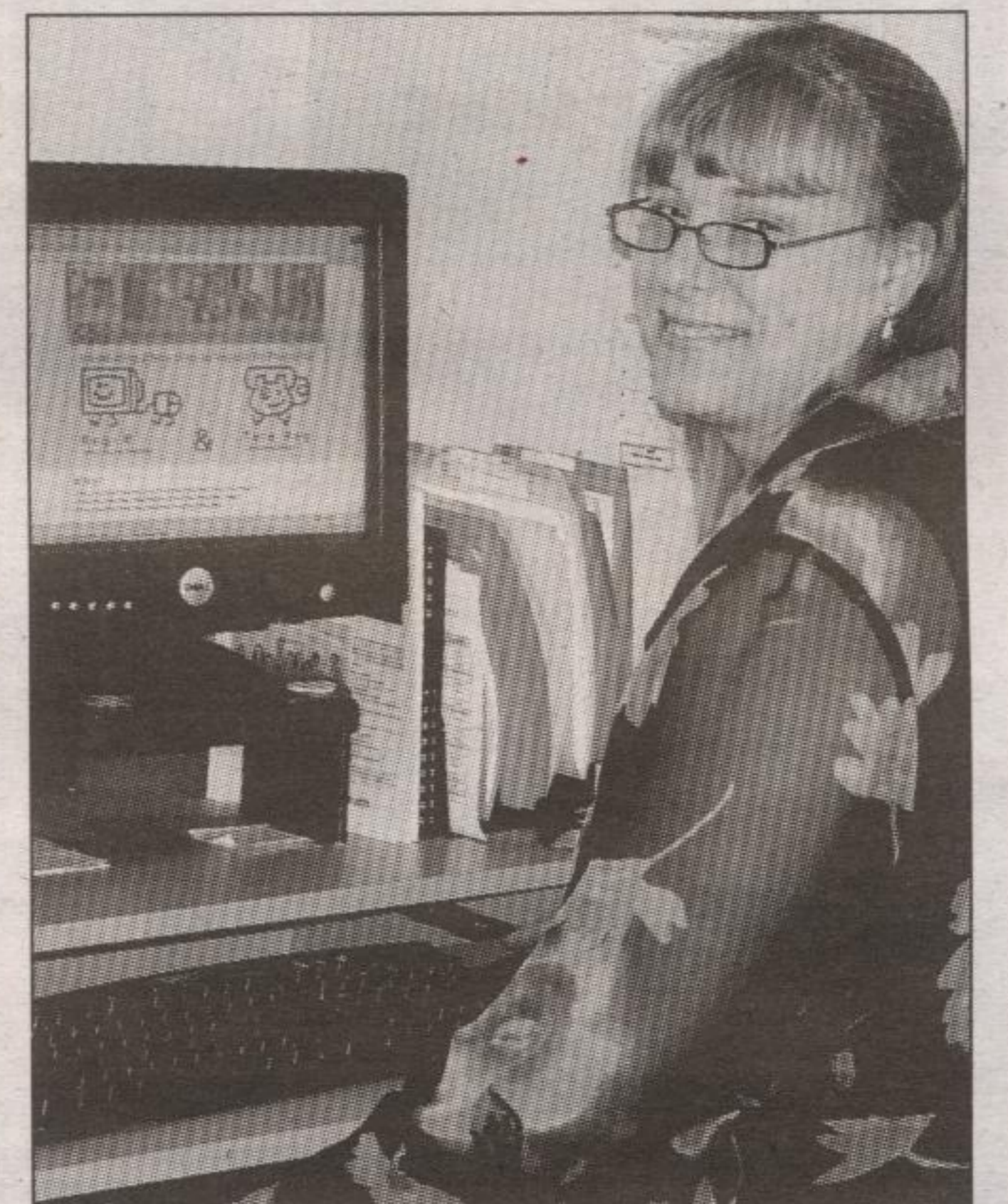
There is a catch to Reg-e. All users must have a family PIN (Personal Identification Number) and family identification numbers and Thompson is encouraging everyone to get theirs soon.

The PIN ensures confidentiality and secures residents' financial and personal information, says Thompson. An identification number for each member of the family is also necessary to ensure the right person is in the right program.

If families registered in any 2003 program, a PIN and family identification numbers will be mailed to them in October.

For new families and individuals, application forms are also available at all town facilities, at the Civic Centre and in the Fall/Winter recreation activity guide distributed to homes in August. Applications can also be downloaded from the town's Web site, [www.halton-hills.ca](http://www.halton-hills.ca) by clicking the Reg-e logo.

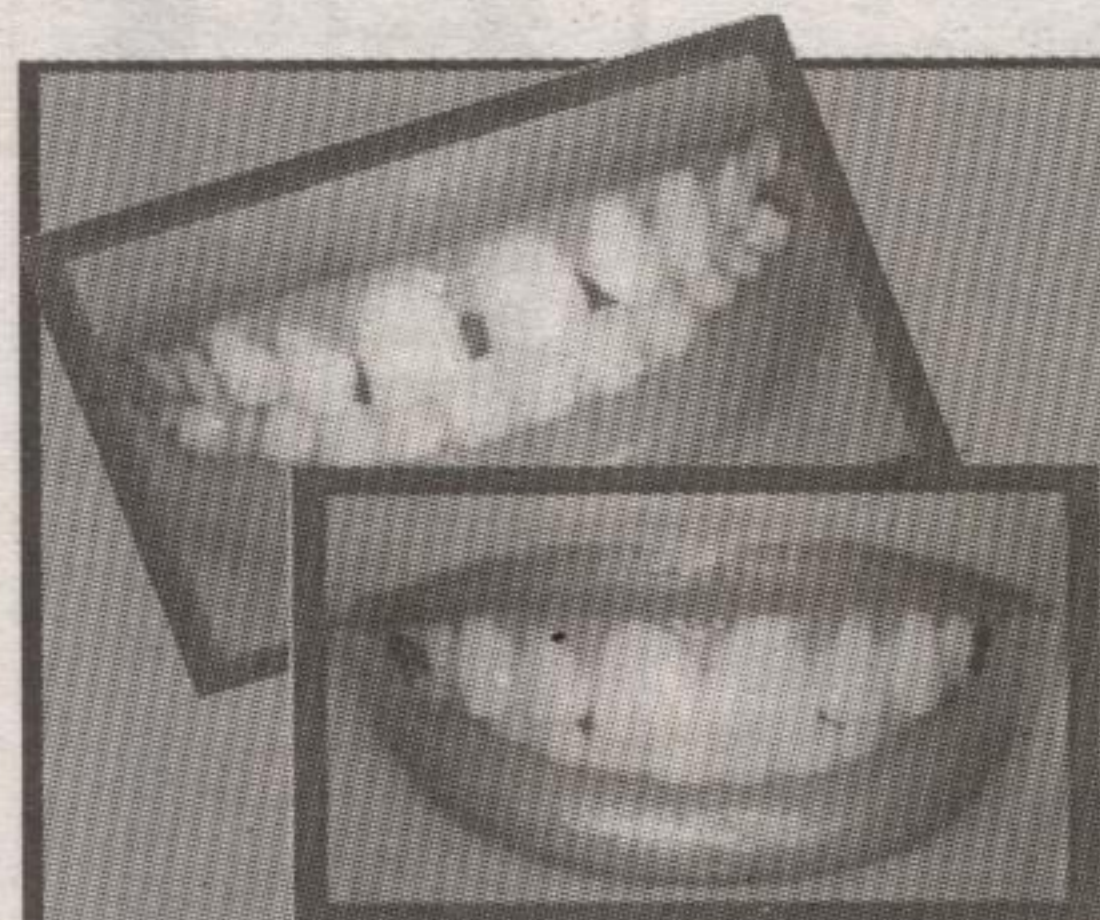
While you're on the Web site, Reg-e can take you on a tour, walking you through the registration procedure — a PIN is not needed for the tour. Already 3,000 people have taken the tour.



Cindy Bodrug, of the Town of Halton Hills, shows off the town's new on-line registration system— Reg-e. The system officially launches Dec. 1.


"This response shows people are really excited," says Thompson.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer



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