

'Declaration on clean air' signed by Region

Halton Region signaled its commitment to improving air quality by signing the Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air at the recent third annual GTA Smog Summit.

The Region joined 24 representatives from the municipal, regional, provincial and federal government levels in its commitment.

The declaration includes an outline of the general principles of smog and programs and initiatives each organization will individually tackle this year, along with the actions to be initiated by all members of the GTA Clean Air Council.

Oakville Councillor Allan Elgar signed the declaration on behalf of Halton Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline.

"The Smog Summit provided an opportunity for the Region to highlight our air quality improvement strategies," said Ms Savoline.

"We have been working to improve air quality for many years and in fact, smog reduction was identified as one of the strategic goals in regional council's newly-revised Strategic Plan."

Halton Region has committed to numerous action plans, including:

- advocating for public transit
- discussing an anti-idling policy for Regional vehicles
- exploring the feasibility of buying non-coal fire electricity for Regional use
- expanding the Halton Partners for Clean Air to include private enterprise
- working to reduce traffic congestion around schools

- undertaking a second State of the Environment Report to develop Environmental Indicators for Quality of Life Reporting

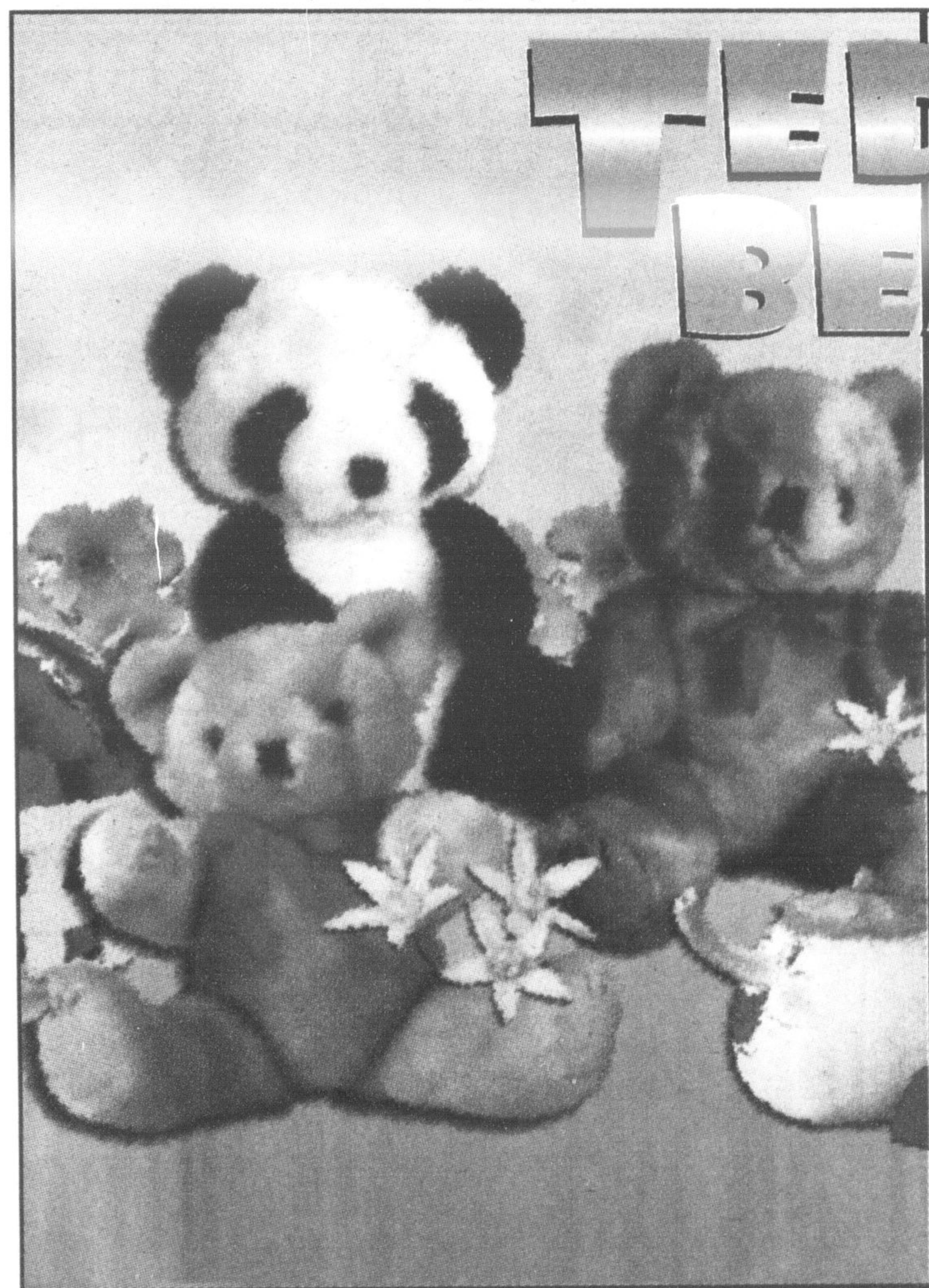
- evaluating and supporting the addition of land to the region's Greenlands System
- promoting a compact urban form
- providing education and awareness about the impact of smog on public health.

This isn't Halton's first step toward addressing air pollution concerns. In 1999, the Region worked with the public sector to develop the Halton Public Sector Smog Response Plan and founded the Halton Partners for Clean Air group to implement the plan.

The partnership is a way for 12 local, public sector partners to work together to reduce work-related and community contributions to smog. The partners include Halton Region, the four area municipalities, the Halton and Catholic District school boards, Conservation Halton, and local hydro commissions.

Recently, the Halton Partners for Clean Air sponsored the only Citizens' Smog Forum that welcomed more than 60 residents to address smog problems and discuss solutions. Discussion points from this meeting were collated with the ideas from five other GTA Citizen Forums to create the 'Citizens' Report', which was presented at the June 21 Smog Summit.

For more information about what Halton is doing about smog call (905) 825-6000 or visit www.region.halton.on.ca.



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CORRECTION TO "CONTEST RULES"

Closing date for entries: Sunday, July 28/02, 5p.m.

Draw will be held Monday, July 29/02, 9a.m.

(Not July 27 & 28th as printed on the ballots.)

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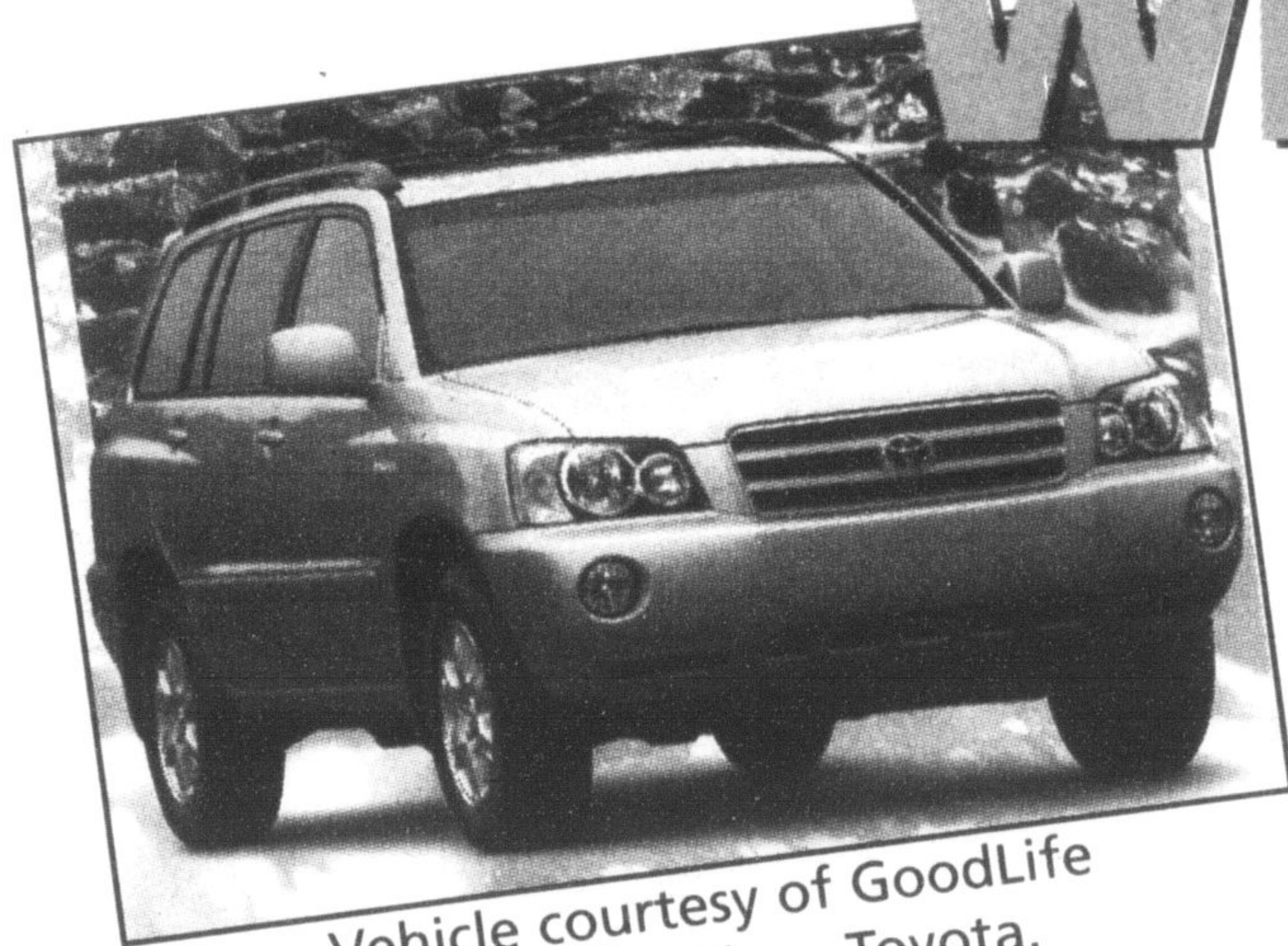
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