

Residents provide input on improving local parks

By **JASON MISNER**
The Champion

Maureen Simpson has enjoyed Thompson Park for the two-plus decades she's lived near it, but knows it isn't perfect. So she has some suggestions to make it better.

"The whole park is taken care of, but I want lights in the wooded area," the Maplewood Crescent resident said.

The area extends from her street to around the John Tonelli Sports Centre. "You cannot go through there at night," she said.

Given the piles of snow still outside, it might have been difficult to switch gears and think about parks.

But Ms Simpson was one of a couple dozen people who attended a recent three-hour open house.

The meeting was hosted by the Town to collect opinions about David Thompson, Fay and

Melanie parks.

These parks are more than 20 years old and Town staff say they need to be upgraded and brought up to standards. The comments will be packaged together in a staff report summarizing residents' feedback later this spring and used to help make park changes.

Any changes will have to be approved by town council and would be phased in over time, said Milton's park technologist Lisa VanderVliet. But she hopes some changes could be made this summer. The Town has established four primary objectives in regards to the upgrades of the three parks, including enhancing park enjoyment, keeping parks safe, reducing parks maintenance and improving the parks' environmental integrity.

The Town has received questionnaires from people outlining their most frequent concerns about the

parks, like:

- Dogs not being on leashes
- Teenagers congregating at night
- Vandalism of trees

Elizabeth Cosby, who has lived on Fay Court for 22 years, wants improved lighting and better drainage in Fay Park.

She said the pathways tend to flood because of rain and makes walking on them difficult.

Residents were happy the Town included them in the parks' development process. Ms Simpson said she remembers about 20 years ago when she brought her three young grandchildren to see the mayor to tell him they wanted playground equipment in Thompson Park.

The open house was a great way to gather input, she said.

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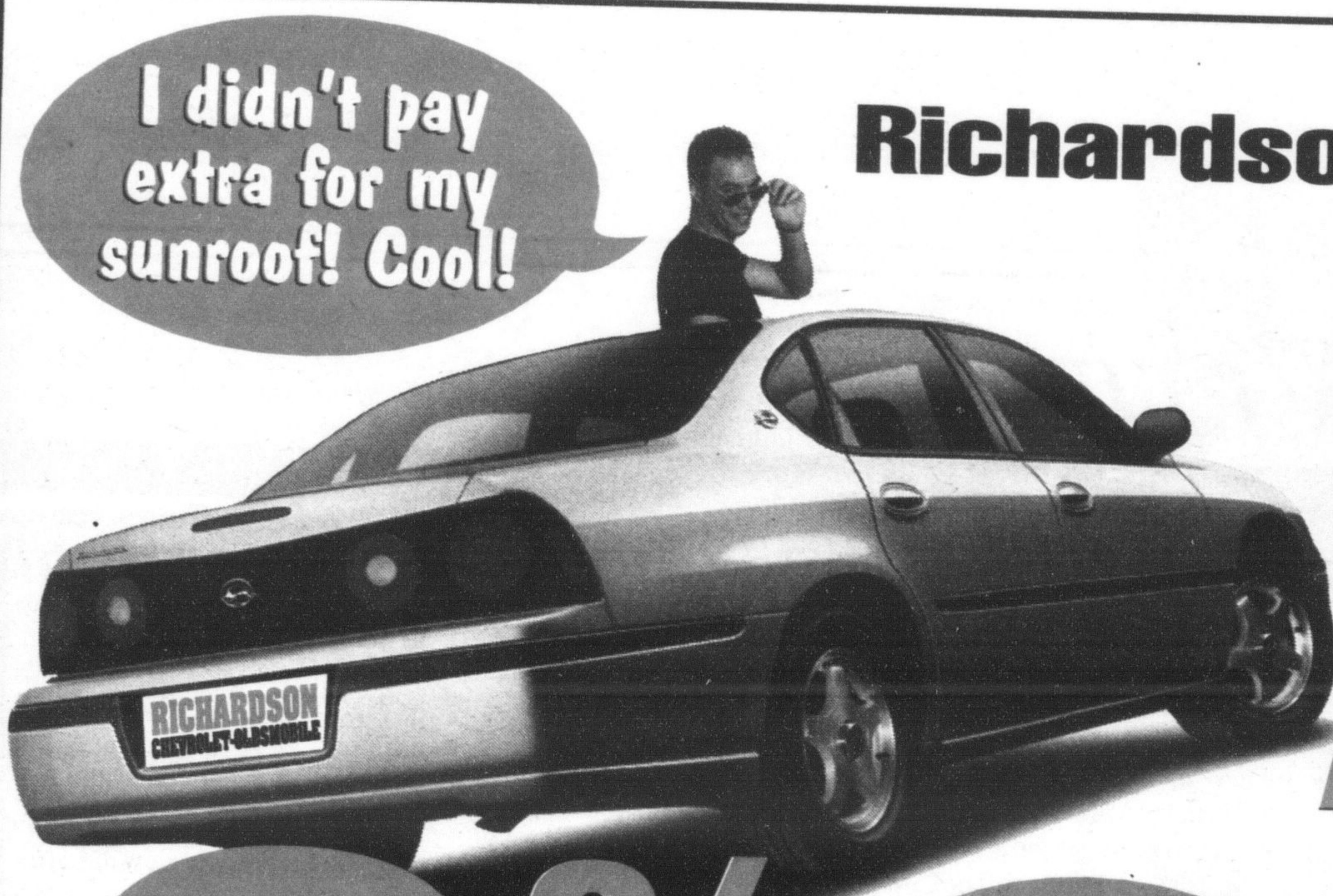
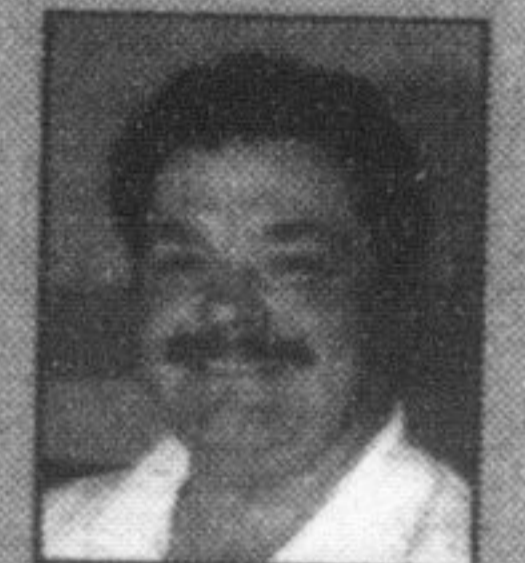
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