

Gridiron grind wearing this old sports scribe out

I was so tired that if a three-legged crocodile was coming after me, I would have waited for him and let him eat me. I was so tired that if Meg Ryan was waiting for me at the other end of the field, I would have just waved.

More on that in a minute, but first a big thank you to Milton for an extremely successful fundraiser last Saturday. That support was appreciated by the Milton Marauders and it's encouraging to know people in town are behind you and willing to help.

So, anyway, I was so tired that if you placed a thousand dollar bill (if there are such things) in front of me on the end of a stick, I wouldn't have even reached for it.

Let me go back to the first day of training camp with the Marauders. We had wind sprints at the end of practice, and I didn't do them all, because I didn't think I could.

Going home that night, I vowed to myself that no matter what else happened, I would make sure I did all the wind sprints and all the drills that everybody else did.

I didn't respect myself that night, so henceforth it became a battle with myself. I didn't care if I came last, I didn't care if anybody was watching, I only cared that I accomplished that much.

I mean, I'm not fooling anybody and I'm not trying to. A couple months ago when I was more than 40 pounds heavier, I couldn't bend over to tie up my shoes, and I couldn't walk up a flight of stairs without resting halfway. I'm not going at the same level as everybody else.

My greatest asset, I think, is staying out of the way when there's important stuff going on by real players who are working hard to get ready for the season. And to be truthful, sometimes I haven't felt as if I'm physically able to withstand some of the beatings these guys endure. That doesn't mean you can call me a synonym for kitty cats, but at times it goes close to that edge.

Perrott powers Mustangs to big win over Reding

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Jake Perrott went down in the record books as the winning pitcher at Brian Best Park Wednesday.

However, his efforts on the mound were hardly the key ingredient to victory. The Milton District Mustang veteran was at best mediocre in a two-inning stint against cross-town rival Bishop Reding — but more than made up for it at the plate.

In fact that's a staggering understatement about his afternoon assault that powered the ponies to a 12-7 humbling of the Royals. Perrott accounted for two-thirds of that production to give his team its first win over BR in three years.

His 3-for-4, 6 RBI, three run outing was highlighted by a bases-clearing double in the second inning which put the 'Stangs ahead to stay. Even Perrott's sixth-inning ground out drove in a run, while just minutes earlier he made a nifty snag in left field to stymie the Royals' fading comeback hopes.

This one-man wrecking crew performance was one of the few bright spots in an eye sore game — during which both sides suffering from sub-par pitching and countless fielding follies.

MD scored four of its runs on passed balls, marking one of the uglier stats of the day.

"I thought we were playing at Brian Best, not the Twilight Zone," quipped winning manager Andrew Todd of the afternoon error-fest. "Thank God for Jake's bat. He hit the ball a ton today, and that bases-clearing double really made the difference."

The Royals seemed poised to make a rally in the bottom of the third when some heads-up play allowed them to pick off both Shawn Shadlock and Greg Coe and stay within a run.

But BR could only scatter two hits over the balance of the game after a fairly potent first half. Reg Taylor, Andrew Pepper and Liam Tennant were among the more production visitors, while Curt Davies and Barry Kosmalski had some key hits for the victors.

Wednesday's win lifted the 'Stangs to 3-1-2 on the year and allowed them to catch 4-2 Reding for third place in the Volpe Division.

The two teams closed out regular-season play beyond press time yesterday afternoon — BR doing so against Oakville Trafalgar and MD hosting Q.E. Park.

Steve LeBlanc can be reached at sleblanc@haltonsearch.com.

I love watching what's going on up close, and I've learned a ton of things about football that fascinate me, but I also have to remember my place as a 45-year-old newspaper observer who no longer has the athletic skills or a body that rebounds quickly from pain and pulled muscles.

Anyway, I was so tired that if the reward for getting to the other end was a round of golf with Tiger Woods and Mike Weir at Pebble Beach, I would have opted for the driving range by myself.

It was at the end of practice. We had to do the crab crawl the length of the field. That's where you walk on your hands and feet. It's more difficult than it sounds, and at about the halfway point, everybody had finished but me.

There's no way I can finish, I told myself. I was so tired



Out in left field

with **MURRAY TOWNSEND**

that...well you get the idea. But, then Coach Emo came down beside me and started doing it with me.

If Coach Emo tells me to run against a brick wall, I'm going to do it. That spurred me on for a while, but it was taking everything I had to move every inch.

Then the rest of the players who had finished came beside me, yelling encouragement, pushing and prodding me on. At that point, I was no longer doing it for myself. I felt as if not finishing would be letting the team down. Maybe this sounds melodramatic, but I was going to get to the end if it killed me.

I made it, but without the support of the rest of the team, I wouldn't have. And it wasn't about me personally, it was about being a team. Maybe that's what football is all about.

I probably shouldn't tell you this, because I don't want to sound like a synonym for kitty cat again, but when I got home there were tears in my eyes.

"What's the matter?" my daughter laughed, "There's no crying in football."

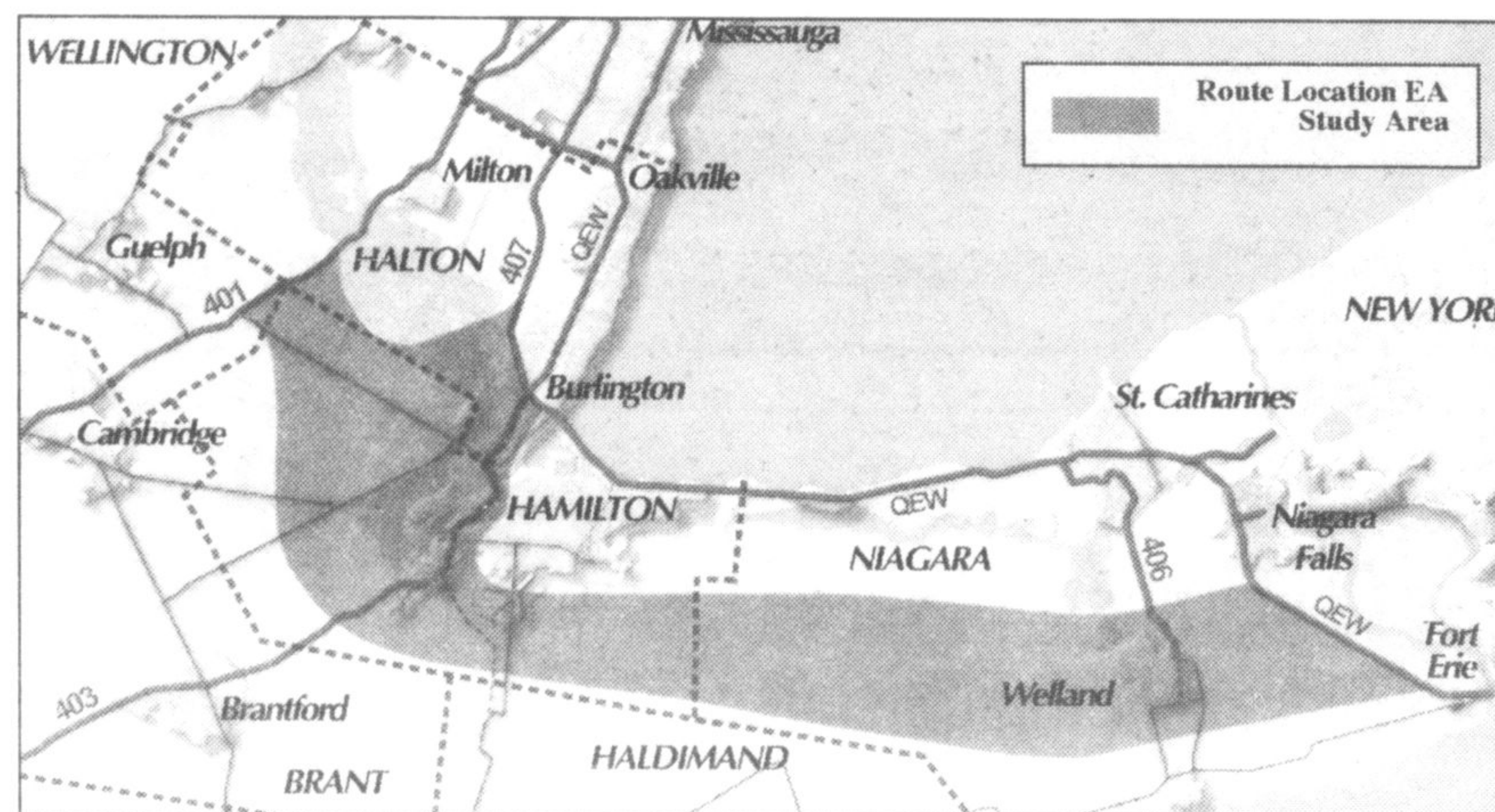
Maybe not, but when you've just accomplished the most difficult physical task of your life, and you didn't do it alone, it means something. It means a lot.

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor

As part of the planning process for the Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor, an Environmental Assessment (EA) Terms of Reference (ToR) will be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for review as required under the provincial Environmental Assessment Act. If approved, the EA ToR will serve as the framework for a Route Location EA Study to determine a preferred route for the proposed Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor.

The Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor (MPTC) is required to address future travel needs from the Niagara Peninsula through Hamilton into the Greater Toronto Area over the next 30 years. The MPTC would provide a new highway and protection for a future transitway; providing an alternate to existing congested highways (i.e. QEW and Highway 403). The MPTC would serve tourism and commercial traffic from the Niagara border crossings into southern Ontario as well as commuter traffic between Hamilton and Halton. Pending approval of the EA ToR for the proposed Mid-Peninsula Transportation Corridor, route alternatives will be generated and assessed within the EA Study Area identified in the map below:



The Terms of Reference will be available for review as of May 20th, 2003 at the following locations:

Project website:
www.midpeninsulahighway.on.ca

Ministry of the Environment
Environmental Assessment
& Approvals Branch
2 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto

Regional Municipality of Niagara
Public Works Department
Transportation Services
2201 St. David's Road
Thorold

Aldershot Public Library
355 Plains Road E.
Burlington

Oakville Central Public Library
120 Navy Street
Oakville

West Lincoln Public Library
318 Canboro Street
Smithville

Ministry of the Environment
West Central Region
12th Floor, 119 King Street West
Hamilton

City of Hamilton
Environmental Planning and
Management Department
77 James Street N.
Hamilton

Ancaster Public Library
300 Wilson St. E.
Ancaster

Burlington Central
Public Library
2331 New Street
Burlington

Guelph Public Library
100 Norfolk Street,
Guelph

Ministry of Transportation
Provincial and Environmental Planning Office
Garden City Tower, 4th Floor
301 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines

Regional Municipality of Halton
Planning and Public Works Department
Halton Regional Centre
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville

Hamilton Central Public Library
55 York Boulevard
Hamilton

Welland Public Library Main Branch
140 King Street
Welland

Note: The Terms of Reference may also be available for public review at other municipal offices.

Written comments on the Terms of Reference may be submitted to MOE no later than June 20th, 2003. Please submit comments to:

Environmental Assessment & Approvals Branch
Ministry of the Environment
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1L5

Attention: Solange Desautels, Special Project Officer
Fax: (416) 314-8452
Tel: (416) 314-8001 or (416) 314-8360

Please provide a copy of the comments to the Ministry of Transportation.

Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Environmental Assessment Act, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and can be released, if requested, to any person.

"The business that considers itself immune to the necessity for advertising sooner or later finds itself immune to business."

Derby Brown

