

WalMart looks to locate at Steeles super centre

By **JASON MISNER**
The Champion

WalMart, the world's largest retailer, is close to signing a deal to open up a store in Milton.

The retail chain is looking at establishing a store at the massive retail power centre at Steeles Avenue and James Snow Parkway, owned by Mississauga-based First Gulf Capital Corporation.

A signed contract "is imminent," said First Gulf president David Gibson.

The power centre development – which could also include a movie theatre, a hotel and a home improvement centre – was approved by town council Monday night.

There is a 30-day appeal period. There are currently five WalMart stores within suitable driving distance of Milton.

Milton's administration and planning committee had passed a recommendation in the spring for a zoning change and Official Plan amendment. This week, councillors officially approved those changes, as well as a draft bylaw that sets out the sizes and types of uses on the site.

The department store component of the centre can be no bigger than 135,000 square feet, and must be one that currently doesn't exist in town.

The Town has also capped size restrictions of a movie theatre at 35,000 square feet, and stores can be no smaller than 3,000 square-feet. A grocery store is also zoned for the site.

The power centre could be operating in Milton in as early as two years.

Reports to council suggest the department store would be the first business to open on the site.

It's being viewed as the biggest retail centre to be established in Milton since Milton Mall was built in the '70s.

Milton's planning director Mel Iovio told council the power centre wouldn't negatively impact the Central Business District (CBD). In fact, it would be "complimentary."

Town officials have said the CBD is an integral part of future economic growth for Milton and want to see it prosper.

A study conducted by

PriceWaterhouseCoopers for the Town concluded the opening of First Gulf is needed as a "catalyst" to increase spending dollars in Milton. Without the expansion, the report states "the expanded CBD can be expected to experience development delays and/or leasing constraints."

Previous studies have indicated Milton's population is expected to grow to more than 73,000 people by 2011 and that will warrant the need for an additional one million square feet of retail and commercial space.

Studies have concluded the lack of current adequate retail space has forced Miltonians to shop outside of town, taking with them their hard-earned bucks.

The Town sees the proposed retail centre addressing some of those issues.

Mr. Gibson said after the meeting that the approval is exciting.

• see ZELLERS on page 12

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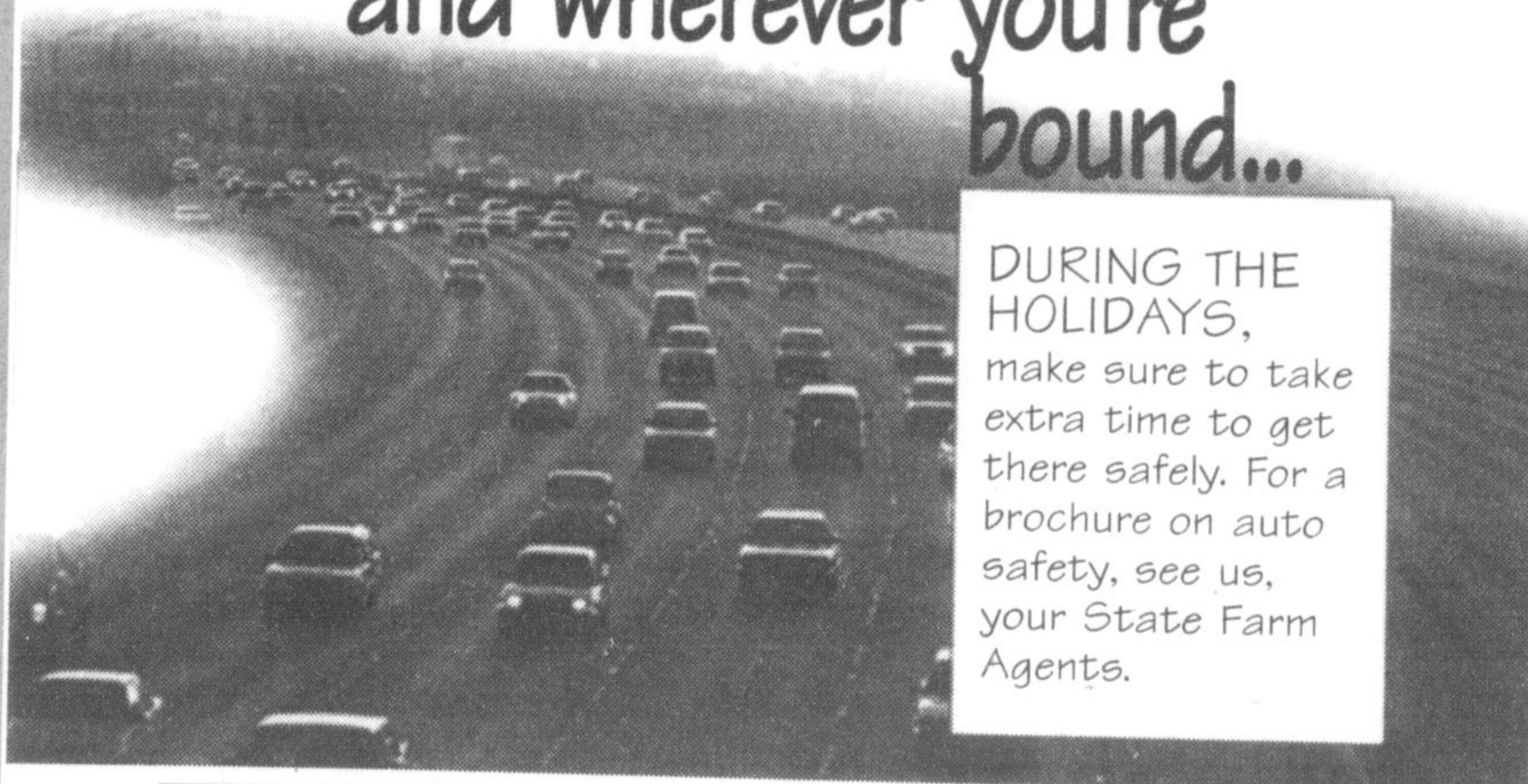
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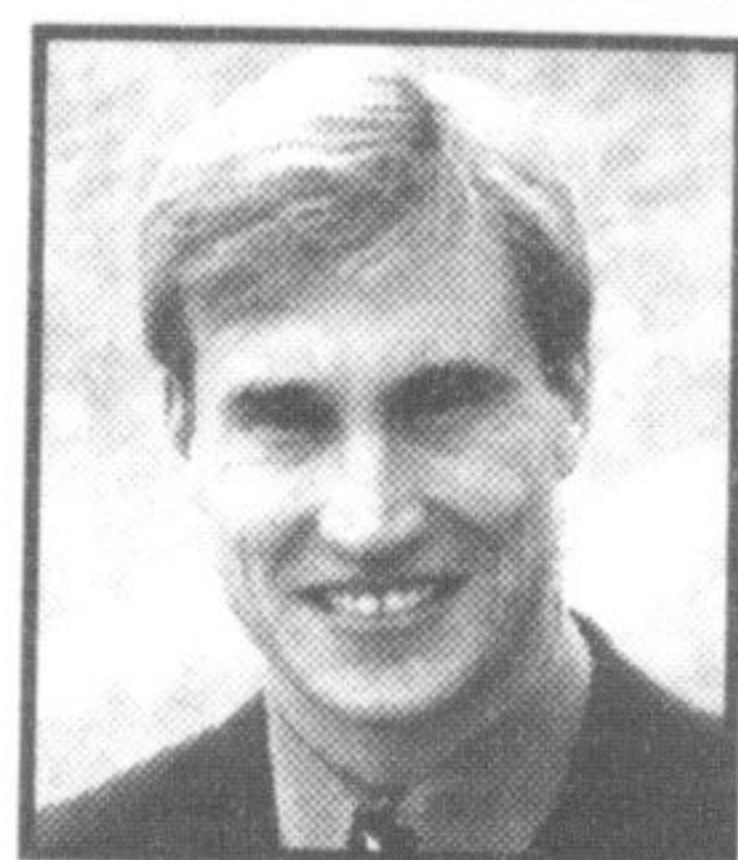
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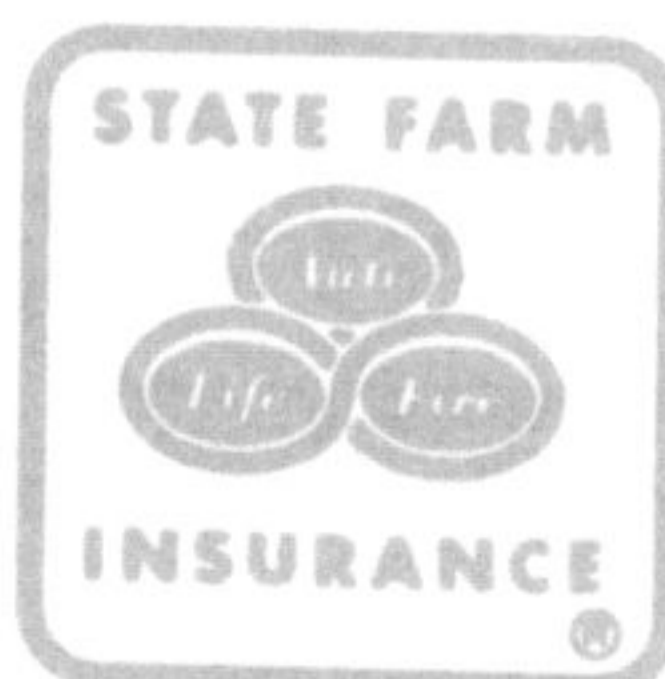
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TALK of the TOWN

A monthly feature from the Town of Milton

"Fall" for these new happenings

With the days getting shorter, the autumn season is just around the corner. Along with the usual new beginnings in the fall, such as returning to work or school, the Town of Milton is pleased to announce these new beginnings...

Visit www.milton.ca

It's now simpler than ever to visit the Town's website with its new easy-to-remember address. If you haven't visited the site since the start of the new year, it's time to check out the new design and enhancements. Interested in an agenda or minutes for a Town Council meeting? Need to find out more about installing a pool in your backyard? Looking for transit information? It's all online at www.milton.ca

Milton Online Registrations

The Town will be launching its new Milton Online Registrations service this fall, which will allow you to register for recreation program courses using either the Town website or touch-tone telephone system. This means more convenient and faster turnaround times – all from the comfort of your own home.



The first phase of this new service will be limited to aquatics programs for the fall session launch. The next phase will include registrations for more recreation programs for the winter session. Future phases of the Town's electronic services will allow even more Internet transactions such as purchasing a dog license or obtaining a building permit.

Start using Milton Online Registrations in September Getting started

Obtain an *Account Personal Identification Number (Account PIN)* to identify your family account and *Client Barcodes* for each family member. If you have registered for a recreation program since January 2002, you will automatically receive your account information in a comprehensive information package coming your way by mail in mid-August. If you haven't been registered for a program during this time, simply visit Town Hall or the Milton Leisure Centre during regular operating hours to set up your account.

Three new ways to register in September

1. Register on the Internet

Visit the Town website and click on the Milton Online logo on the home page and you will enter the electronic gateway to the Community Services Department where you can register for recreation program courses. Start browsing as early as August 22nd and register for some aquatics courses starting September 20th at 9:00 a.m. for Milton residents. Payments are a breeze with Visa and MasterCard!

2. Register by telephone

Starting September 20th at 9:00 a.m., Milton residents can call 905-875-5400 (Long distance: 1-800-418-5494, ext. 2430) to register by telephone. With your account information and course numbers close at hand, simply follow the easy-to-use voice prompts to register for courses and make payments using Visa or Mastercard.

3. Register in person

There will be a new walk-in registration session on Saturday, September 20th (September 24th for non-residents):
Town Hall (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
Milton Leisure Centre (9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

This special registration session will ensure everyone, with or without Internet access, will have an equal opportunity to register for recreation programs. A walk-in session is also scheduled for winter registration.

Visit the Town website this fall for more details on Milton Online Registrations!

New Fall/Winter Community Services Guide

This new edition will be delivered throughout Milton on August 22nd. As always, this publication will be chock-a-block full of recreation program details and community information. It will also include extensive information on the Town's new Milton Online Registrations service as well as important course codes for Internet and telephone registrations.

NEED INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER TOWN SERVICES?

Call 905-878-7252 or TTY 905-878-1657

Visit our Web site at www.milton.ca

