

# Public consulted on future of Highway 25 at meeting

By MELANIE HENNESSEY  
The Champion

Within a few years, local residents could see Regional Road 25 from Derry Road to Hwy. 407 double in size.

Taking the approximate 9-km stretch of highway from two lanes to four was the 'preferred alternative' put forward by planners at a public information session Thursday.

Regional staff and consultants were on hand to discuss the class environmental assessment process taking place on the main artery running between Milton and Oakville.

"We're just basically in the planning stages right now," said Halton Project Manager Nick Zervos.

As part of that planning, several alternatives were identified regarding the Regional Road 25 project, including do nothing, widen the road from two to four lanes, make traffic control improvements, such as putting in lights at the Lower Base Line intersection, improve

other surrounding roads, upgrade the public transit service or increase the number of car-pooling facilities.

Out of these, road widening was selected by the Region as the best way to go at an estimated cost of \$25 million.

But, a small survey conducted earlier this year at a public information centre showed residents were most in favour of improving other roads around Regional Rd. 25, while road widening was ranked fourth on the list of six alternatives.

A staff report distributed at last week's meeting acknowledged residents want to see other road upgrades and more public transit and said the Region is pursuing these solutions as part of the other alternatives.

"However, the analysis completed by the study team shows that even with these initiatives, widening and traffic control improvements will be required," the report said.

It was decided creating a four lane rural-style road with a median, centered on the existing alignment, is the preferred design for the project.

As part of the road work, the bridge crossing the Sixteen Mile Creek will also be widened.

"There's some rehabilitation required, but it's in relatively good condition," Mr. Zervos said of the bridge.

Out of the public comments received on the road widening to date, Mr. Zervos said he's heard some concerns about speeding, while stakeholders have asked if there's a way to speed up the work. Detailed design of the project is expected to start next year, with construction tentatively set to start in 2008.

For more information on the Regional Road 25 project, visit [www.region.halton.on.ca/ppw/planningroads](http://www.region.halton.on.ca/ppw/planningroads).

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## Lights coming sooner than later

Within the next couple weeks, local residents should see temporary traffic lights installed at the dangerous corner of Derry Road and Santa Maria Boulevard/Commercial Street.

Council approved \$50,000 from capital reserves November 22 for the lights, which will be installed by the Town of Oakville and its contractor.

Plans to put in permanent traffic lights at the intersection were called off by council in the summer after learning the signals will be paid for and installed by the Region next year as part of the Derry Road widening project.

But a report from Engineering Services Director Paul Cripps said, "The Town has received numerous complaints from residents regarding this intersection and they have indicated they are concerned for their safety when travelling through this area."

Ward 2 Councillor Mark Curtis said he heard a lot of those complaints from his constituents and at his son's hockey games at the Milton Sports Centre.

The most recent incident was November 26 just after 6 p.m., when a motorcycle and a car were involved in a collision. The motorcyclist was treated at the hospital

for non-life threatening injuries.

Mr. Curtis brought some of these complaints to Town staff's attention. "I'm really excited that we're going to put in a temporary measure," he said. "I think it's going to save lives."

He reiterated that he was just one of the team involved in getting the lights put in and all of council was concerned with it.

Mr. Cripps' report noted all equipment will be on loan from the Town of Oakville to reduce costs.

"I think this is great news. I'm really happy to see this tonight," Ward 3 Councillor Jan Mowbray said at the meeting.

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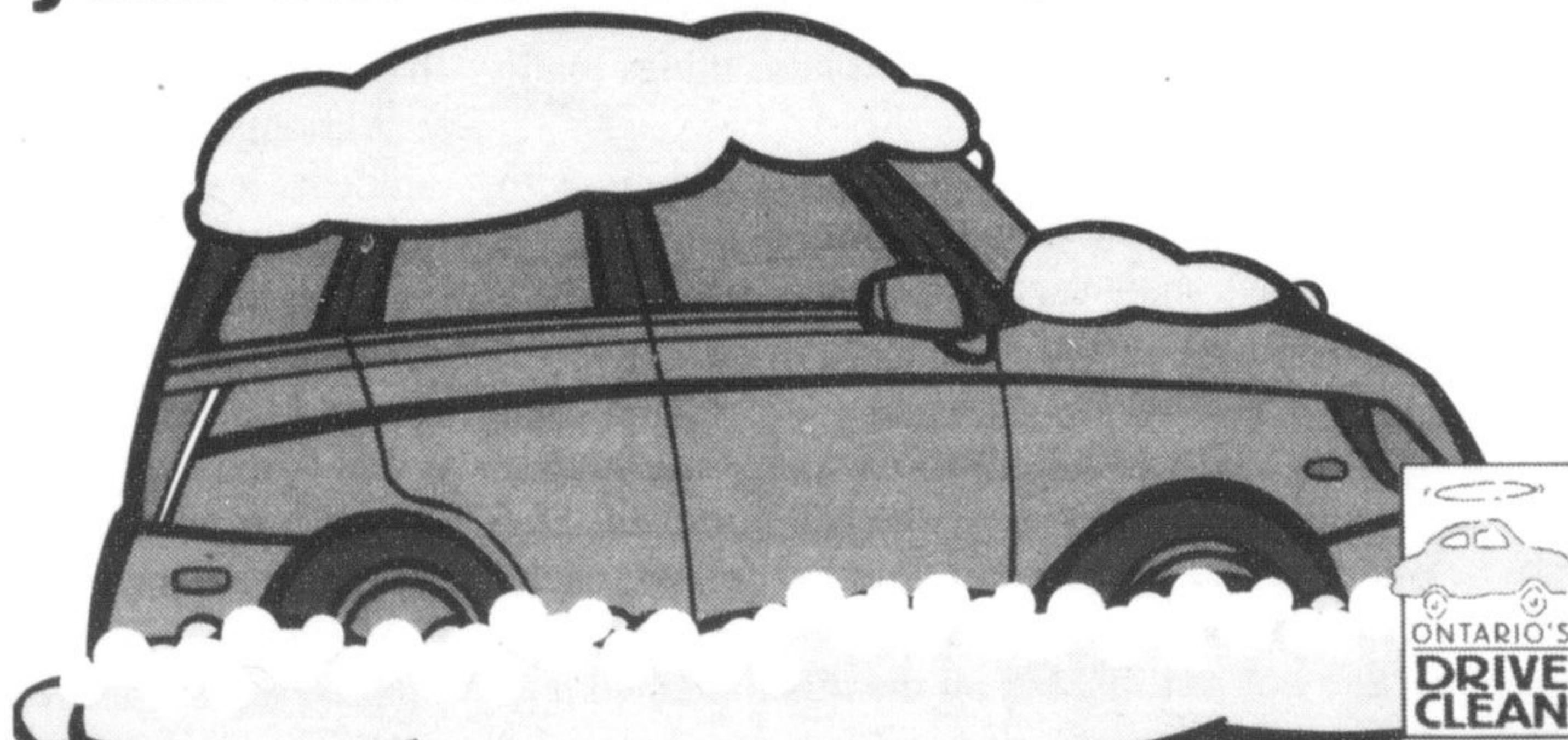


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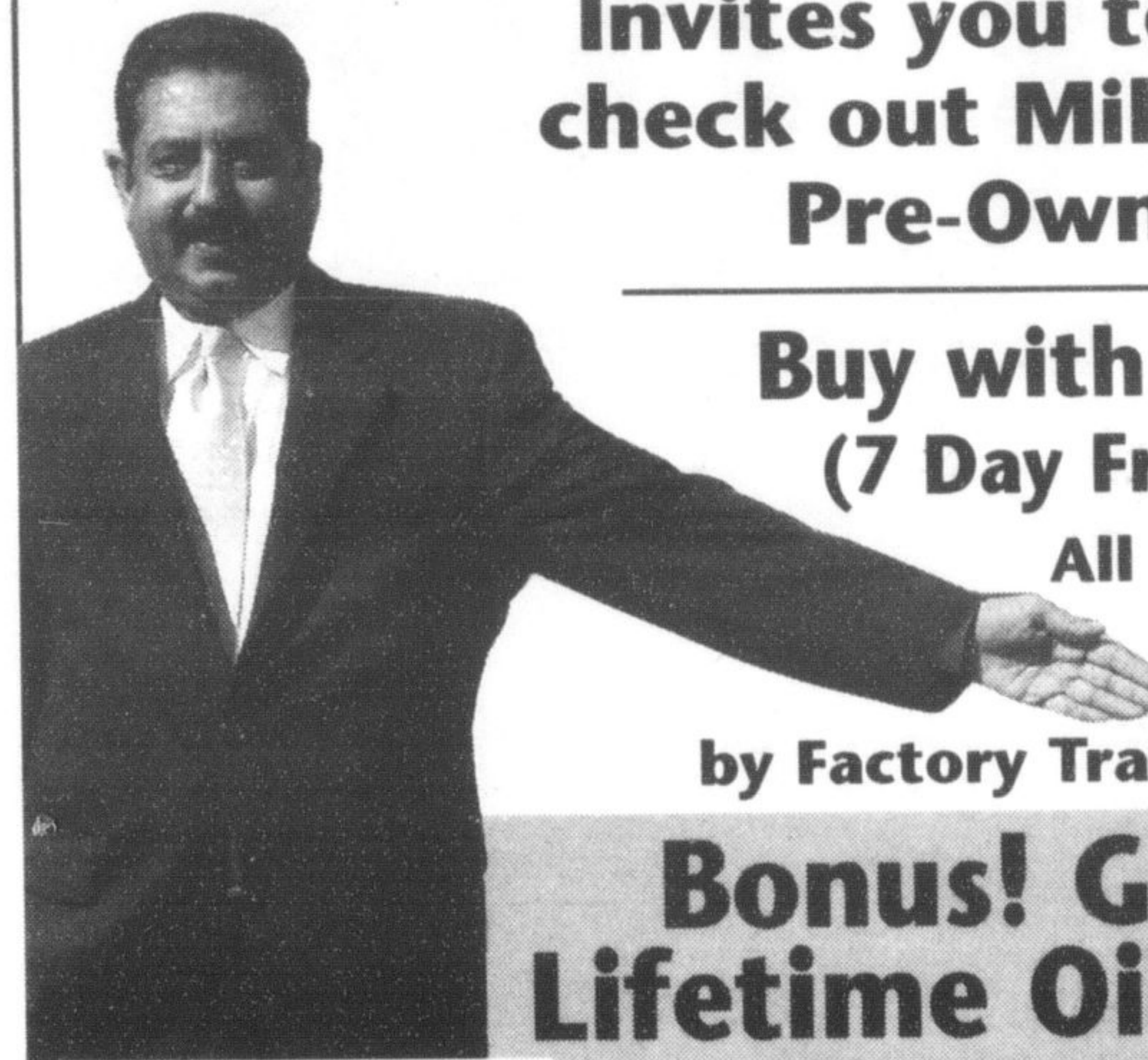
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