

Milton • Means Business

Owners Jacqueline and Bob Julian stand in front of their recently-opened Spot Free Car Wash.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



New car wash uses reverse osmosis system

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Dreams come in all shapes and sizes. Bob Julian's dream — which came to fruition a little more than a month ago — has eight bays, an equal number of vacuums and leaves cars spotless.

For Mr. Julian and his wife, Jacqueline, building a self-serve carwash wasn't something to do haphazardly. It's been years in the making.

"He was looking for a few years," Ms Julian said of her husband's quest for the perfect piece of land. "He'd drive around for hours on end."

The results of that dedication can now be seen at the Spot Free Car Wash on Steeles Road and Harrop Drive. Mr. Julian said the car wash is state-of-the-art.

The 'Spot Free' aspect comes from the unique reverse osmosis system, which leaves no calcium or mineral-type sediment on vehicles, Mr. Julian said. And water used contains less calcium because of a softening process.

The 24-hour car wash has nine cycles as opposed to the usual six, Mr. Julian said.

The soap used is biodegradable, and the car-wash has oil interceptors, which prevent oil from going into the sewer system, he said, adding that's one good reason not to wash your car in the driveway.

"All the grime and oil that's washed off goes into the storm sewers, which damages the lakes and streams," he said.

The comfort of the washer is paramount, Mr. Julian said, and explains the heated floors and bays that are three feet wider and longer than traditional ones — making it easy to drive in and out. "We took the previous standards (for car

washes) and upgraded them 15 per cent across the board," he said.

Instead of the knobs customers often have to turn — which can seize up in winter — Spot Free features a digital set up with a keypad. The digital programming means it'll be easy to upgrade in the future, Mr. Julian said.

The cycles include: tire cleaning, engine shampoo, pre-soak, high pressure soak, triple foam brush, clear-coat, hot wax and spot-free rinse.

An indoor vending machine and change-making area adds further convenience for customers, eliminating fumbling around for change in the cold.

Female customers are particularly appreciative of the well-lit bays and video surveillance, Ms Julian said. "Women are saying it's so well lit, they don't have to worry," she said, adding, "There's a lot of action on Steeles. Everything's out in the open — there are no hidden areas. All

the bays can be seen from Steeles Avenue."

At nighttime the facility is actually brighter than during the day, Mr. Julian said, adding even police have commended the Julians on their safety-conscious thinking.

As for the location, Mr. and Ms Julian said they couldn't have chosen a better spot.

"We're thrilled about being in Milton," Mr. Julian said, adding the growing population warrants a luxury self-serve car wash.

Ms Julian said working in Milton — they live in north Burlington — is a natural fit for them, since they both grew up in small towns.

"It's nice to come to work and people smile, as opposed to in big towns," she said.

So far, Ms Julian said, the response from locals has been great. "People have been saying, 'We've been waiting for you to open.'"

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