

Early bird discount available for upcoming Showcase Milton

Local businesses that plan to take part in this year's Showcase Milton can take advantage of an early bird discount when booking exhibit space until this Friday.

The event, to be held May 6, 7 and 8 at the Milton Sports Centre, is a consumer show that offers the public products for home and garden, travel, entertainment, fitness, automotive, real estate, insurance and more.

Exhibit space for the show is already selling quickly, reports the Milton Chamber of Commerce.

"Showcase was a huge success last year and we already have major support from our returning exhibitors," said

Sandy Martin, executive director of the local chamber.

"Those businesses who participated in the last show recognize the potential to reach thousands of Miltonians and after record growth in 2004, there are 5,000 new residents and potential customers who have moved to Milton since the last show."

Since the first Showcase Milton was staged by the Milton Chamber of Commerce 20 years ago, the town has doubled its population.

But, Ms Martin said, "What hasn't changed is people's appreciation for one-stop shopping and great bargains. For the new Miltonians, Showcase

Milton offers a great overview of the businesses and community services the town has to offer."

James Krane of the show's sales committee reported more than 40 per cent of last year's exhibitors have already signed up for this year's show and many more have indicated they'll be back.

Several local companies are assisting as sponsors to help make Showcase a success, including Travel Choice, GoodLife Fitness Centre, the Ramada Inn and The Champion.

For more information and pricing details on the show, contact Allison Mang at (905) 878-0581.

EA to look at all types of options

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said the assessment was announced to keep a Liberal promise.

"The environmental assessment is going to look at all kinds of options," she said.

"The whole point is to arrange the transportation needs for that area. We know there's going to be population growth." Asked if that means at the end of the assessment the mid-peninsula corridor could be ruled out, Ms O'Brien said, "I'm not going to talk about what's being ruled in or being ruled out. It wouldn't be responsible for me to preclude anything."

Asked if the 2001 Niagara Peninsula Transportation Needs Assessment Study, paid for by Ontario, Hamilton and Niagara, didn't already state the need for the corridor, she replied, "We're proceeding the right way."

The former Tory government announced plans to build a \$1.5 billion highway between the Queen Elizabeth Way in Fort Erie and Hwy. 407 in Burlington, but its plan ran into opposition in Burlington because it threatened part of the Niagara escarpment.

Burlington threatened to take the government to court, but dropped its challenge when the Liberals came to office in 2003. The 2001 study concluded the corridor "will be required" along with upgrades to the QEW to accommodate future travel demand.

The narrower assessment under the Tories would have determined the best highway route. PC Municipal Affairs Critic Tim Hudak called the new assessment "one step forward, and four steps backward" because the 2001 study had concluded the highway was needed to relieve congestion and not threaten any more tender fruit land by expanding the QEW.

He also said the government knew it was making a controversial decision because it notified area MPPs and others about the new assessment just before a weekend in what he called a "Friday night dump. They slipped it by."

Burlington Mayor Rob MacIsaac said he "was cautiously encouraged" about the new assessment because it sounds like what Burlington has been asking for. He said staff are trying to confirm that with provincial officials.

— with files from Torstar News Service

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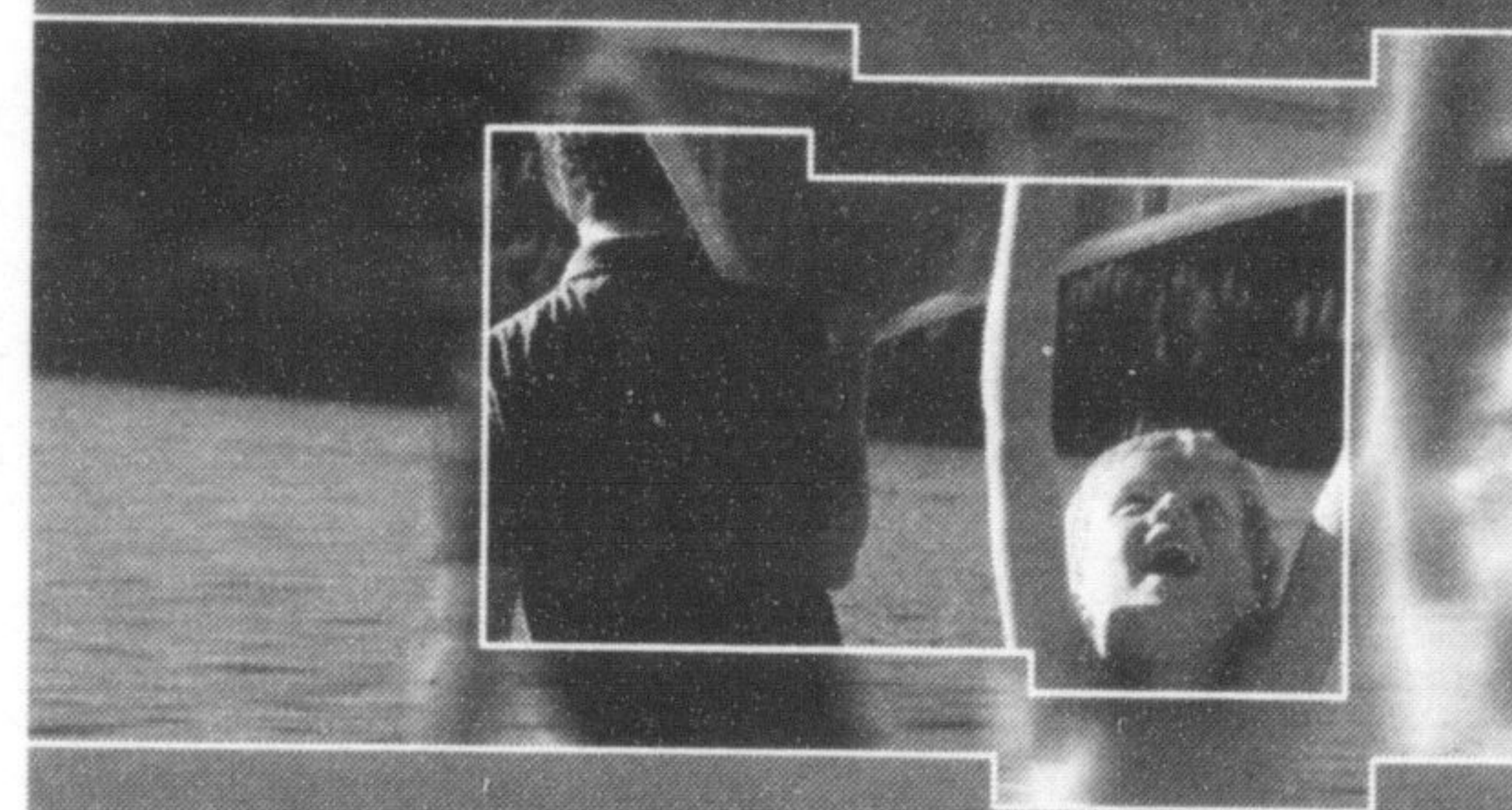


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