

Big VE-Day event planned

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Almost 60 years ago in London, England, throngs of people took to the streets to celebrate a victory over Nazi Germany, signifying an end to the European war.

This May 8, the Royal Canadian Legion in Milton is inviting young and old alike to participate in a parade and afternoon in Victoria Park to mark the 60th anniversary of VE-Day.

"This year has been deemed the Year of the Veteran by the Canadian government," said Laurie MacNab, vice president of branch 136, adding this anniversary has a special importance — it'll be the last significant anniversary for many veterans, since most of them are now in their mid-80s.

Starting at 1 p.m. there'll be a short parade for veterans, which will depart from the Legion, 21 Charles St. All veterans — whether they're members of the Legion or not — are invited to walk in the

parade, which will proceed up Main Street to the Victoria Park cenotaph in front of Town Hall on Brown Street.

The walk is being kept fairly short to ensure maximum participation by veterans, Ms MacNab said, adding rides are being arranged for veterans unable to walk.

Police, fire services and cadets will also march in the parade, and Ms MacNab said she hopes there'll be a huge turnout of new and old Miltonians eager to honour the veterans who served their country.

A short ceremony and wreath-laying will take place at the cenotaph.

This will be followed by an "afternoon in the park the old fashioned way" from 1 to 4 p.m., Ms MacNab said.

Memory Lane Orchestra, a 16-piece band, will crank out Glenn Miller tunes from the Victoria Park gazebo, followed by a sing-along of old war tunes with the Kitchen Band from the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre.

Activity Centre.

Refreshments will be available, and Ms MacNab is reminding people to bring their chairs or blankets to sit on. Chairs will be provided for the veterans.

Since Remembrance Day falls during a cold month, Ms MacNab said this anniversary is an opportunity for Miltonians to gather together, enjoy the spring weather and some entertainment, all while honouring veterans. And since May 8 is also Mother's Day, she's encouraging families to bring their moms and enjoy the time together.

Veterans participating in the parade and the activities afterward are asked to call the Legion branch at (905) 878-9005 or Laurie MacNab at (905) 875-4607 by April 20. Those wanting to ride instead of walk in the parade should let organizers know when they call.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Open house for BMX facility Apr. 21

Local cyclists can check out the Town's plans for a new BMX freestyle facility at a community open house April 21.


The outdoor facility will be built at Lions Sports Park this summer in response to feedback from BMX riders in the community through previous open houses and surveys.

Proposed layouts and designs from suppliers will be on display at the open house at Milton Memorial Arena, 77 Thompson Rd., from 7 to 8:30 p.m. with a

presentation and discussion starting at 7 p.m. Participants will have a chance to ask questions and offer their opinions on the proposed designs.


For more information on the open house, call (905) 878-7252, ext. 2165, or e-mail recreation@milton.ca.

The BMX facility will be located close to the existing skate park and will promote safety by providing separate areas for skateboarders and BMX riders. The new facility will enhance rider opportunities and provide additional recreational opportunities for youth.



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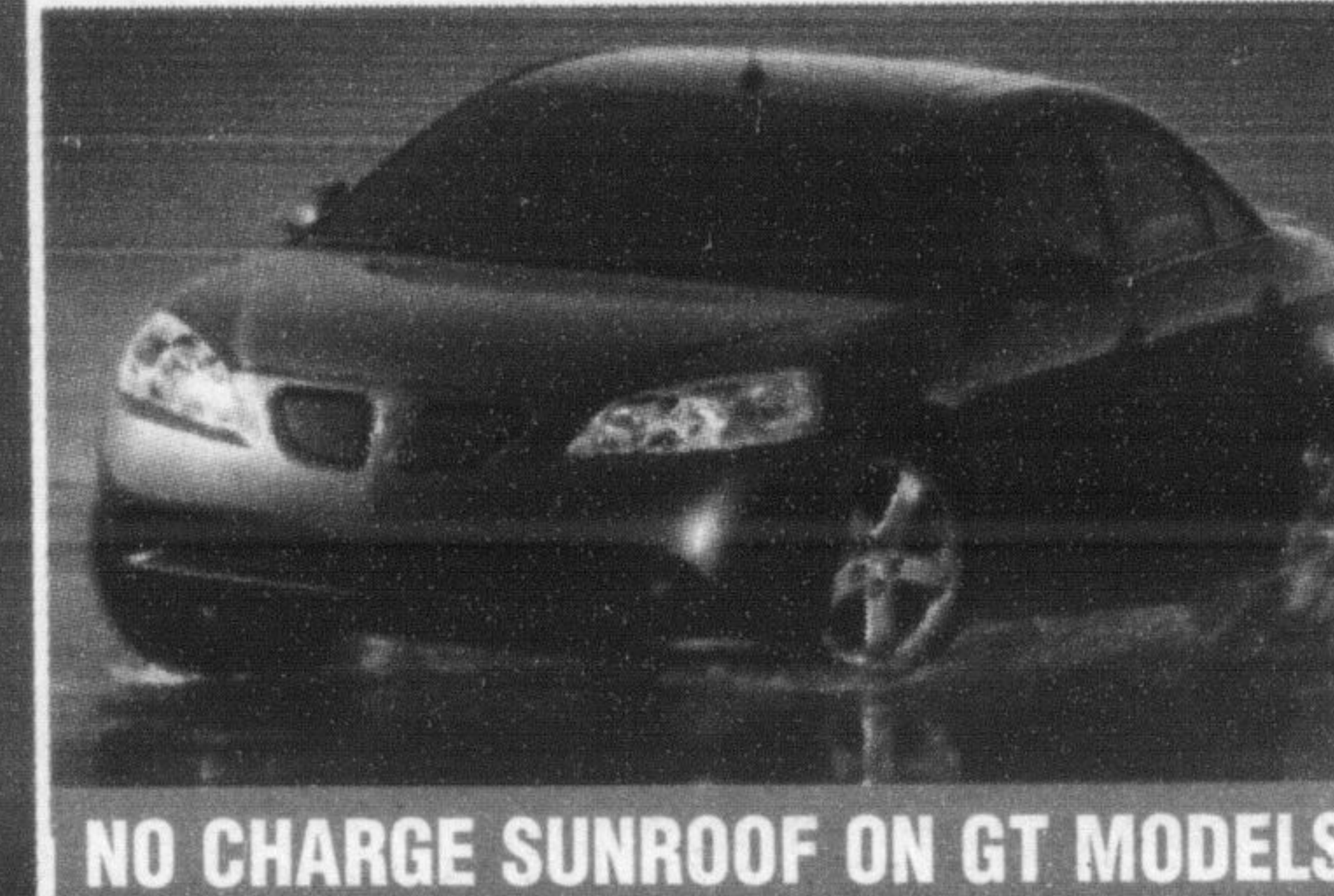


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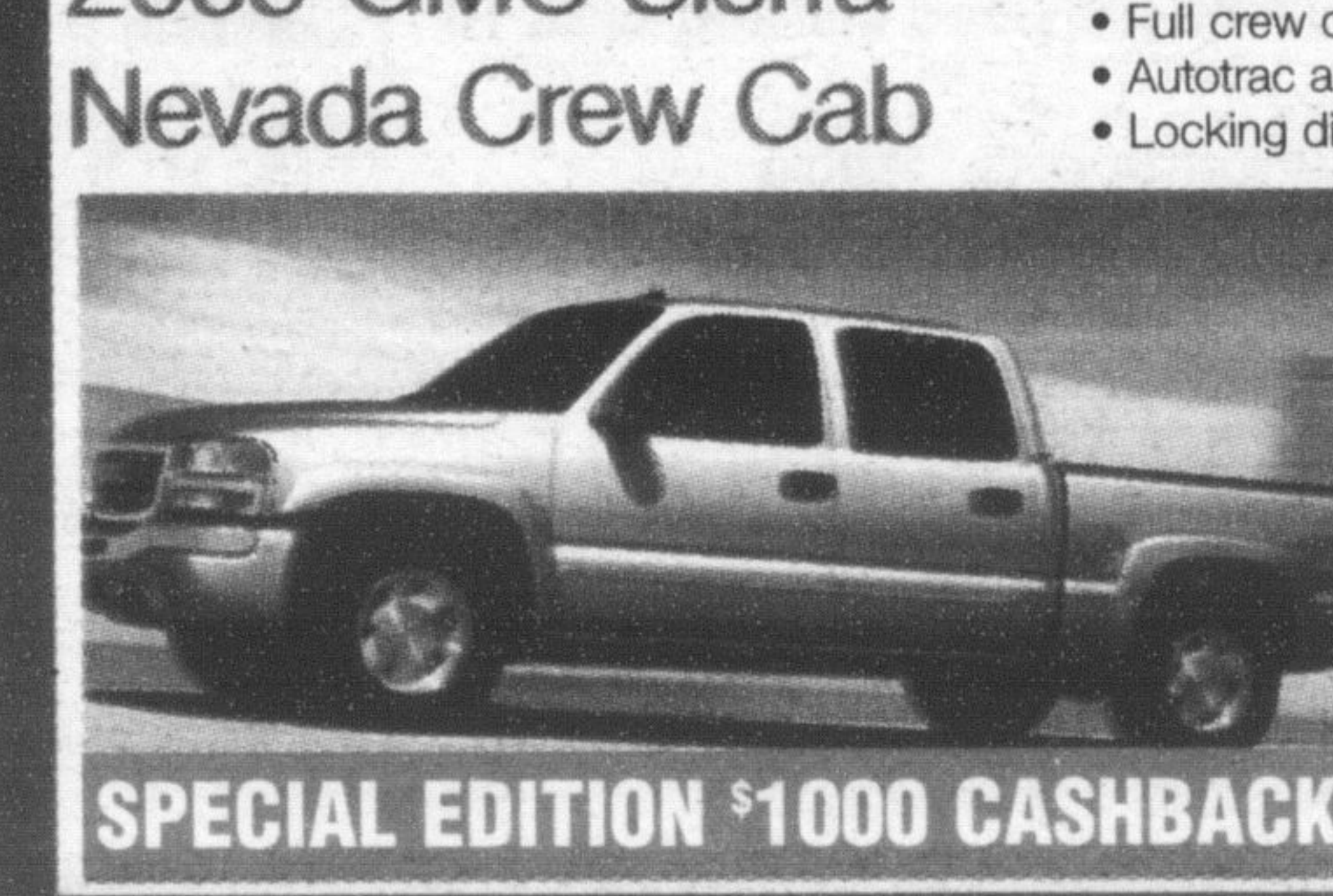


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