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Mustangs narrow the gap in hoops rematch

Reding needs late surge to upstage MD after enjoying cakewalk in season opener

By **HERB GARBUTT**
The Champion

Bishop Reding's senior cagers could have been excused if they were feeling overly confident heading across town to Milton District Tuesday afternoon.

After all, the last time the teams met the Royals went on a 21-0 run to open the game and rolled to an easy 75-39 victory.

But the Mustangs showed they've come a long way since that season-opening encounter. Reding needed a fourth-quarter

rally in the rematch to down the Mustangs 81-74 and improve to 5-1 on the season.

"They didn't have a good game against us the first time. I knew they would be coming in here fired up," said Royals' coach Dwight Jonker. "They're a team with a lot of pride. It's their home gym, and we knew we were in for a fight. We were expecting this."

The Mustangs, now 3-2 on the season, led by as much as six in the final quarter and were still within a point with a minute

to play. And although the Royals again emerged with the victory, MD coach Steve Oliver said it was important for his players to show they're not the same team that got slaughtered in the season opener.

"I think they wanted to show they're better than that," he said. "They've got over that mental hump. Now they believe they can give them a good run."

Milton led 67-61 with five minutes remaining but a three-pointer by Al Alilovic, part of a 10-1 Reding run, with four minutes to play gave the Royals the lead for good.

"If (the Royals) get down they're not going to stay down for long. You can't let them back in," Oliver said. "We let them back in."

"Whenever you play a cross-town rival, you always get hyped up," said Sean Mathé, who led Reding comebacks in both halves. "Beating MD, it's big. If they beat us, it would have been big for them. That's how we treated it."

The Royals' depth proved to be the biggest factor. With three Mustangs fouling out, BR scored six unanswered points in the final minute to put the game away. Marcas Gray, who had drawn the day's tough defensive assignment, snuk in the back door for a pair of lay-ups and Alilovic's slam in the final seconds put an exclamation point on the victory.

"Our depth helped us all game. We were in foul trouble and our bench — John Schultz, Matt Clark, Chris Wheelihan, Mike Rego — those guys came off the

bench and saved our bacon today. They logged some serious minutes," Jonker said. "When (Milton) started to get into foul trouble you started to see a little bit of a let-down."

BR again established an early lead, but Jon Jeysman capitalized on a three-point play and then nailed a three-pointer in the final minute of the opening quarter to pull the Mustangs within two.

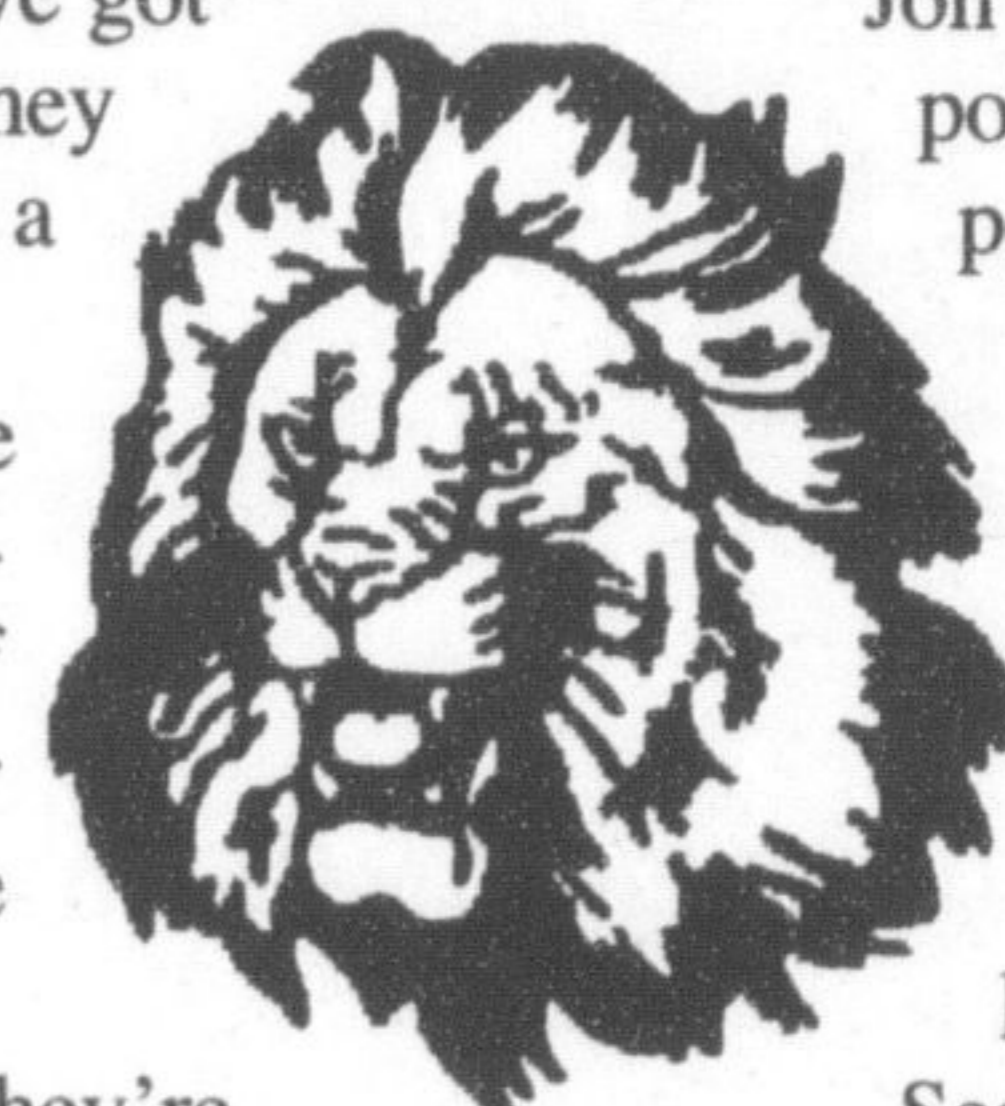
He and Dan Van Cube then led MD on a 15-2 run in the second quarter that allowed the Mustangs to build their biggest lead of the game, 32-25. Led by Sean Mathé, the Royals answered and tied the game but Clayton Holman's basket at the buzzer sent the Mustangs into the half leading 36-34.

Oliver said some games against strong opposition in New York state over the Christmas break helped raise his team's level of play and better equipped them to handle Reding's press.

"We handled the pressure better. They went on a 22-0 run last game in the first two minutes because we couldn't get the ball in. You can't score if you're not getting it over half. (Today) our guards worked together better, screening each other."

BR's juniors also completed a regular-season sweep of the Mustangs Tuesday — prevailing 64-47 after squeaking out a 38-37 decision in their season opener.

The Royals hosted cross-town rival E.C. Drury yesterday afternoon, while MD was in Acton.



The Regional Municipality of Halton

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #2

Regional Road 25 Transportation Corridor Highway 401 to Campbellville Road, Town of Milton Class Environmental Assessment Study

The Regional Municipality of Halton is carrying out a Class Environmental Assessment to consider a wide range of options for transportation corridor improvements to satisfy future travel demands on Regional Road 25, from Highway 401 to Campbellville Road, in the Town of Milton (see map below). The need to satisfy north-south capacity requirements in this transportation corridor has been identified in previous studies including the Region of Halton Transportation Master Plan (2004). This study is being conducted in compliance with Schedule C of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (June 2000), which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

The first Public Information Centre was held on June 15, 2005. Thereafter, the preferred alternative was determined taking into consideration the problem being addressed, alternative solutions, environmental effects, and comments that were received from the Town of Milton, regulatory agencies and the public. The preferred alternative includes the widening of Regional Road 25 to four lanes with a partially raised centre median and intersection improvements.

A second Public Information Centre has been arranged to review the preferred alternative and receive public comments. Following the information centre, the preferred alternative will be reviewed taking into consideration the comments received, and confirmed or modified.

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2006
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Drop-in centre
 7:00 p.m. Presentation followed by question and answer session
Place: Milton Sports Centre, Banquet Room, 605 Santa Maria Boulevard, Milton

Anyone with an interest in the study is invited to attend and to participate. If you cannot attend and would like to provide comments, please forward your comments to Halton Region at the address below by Friday, February 10, 2006.

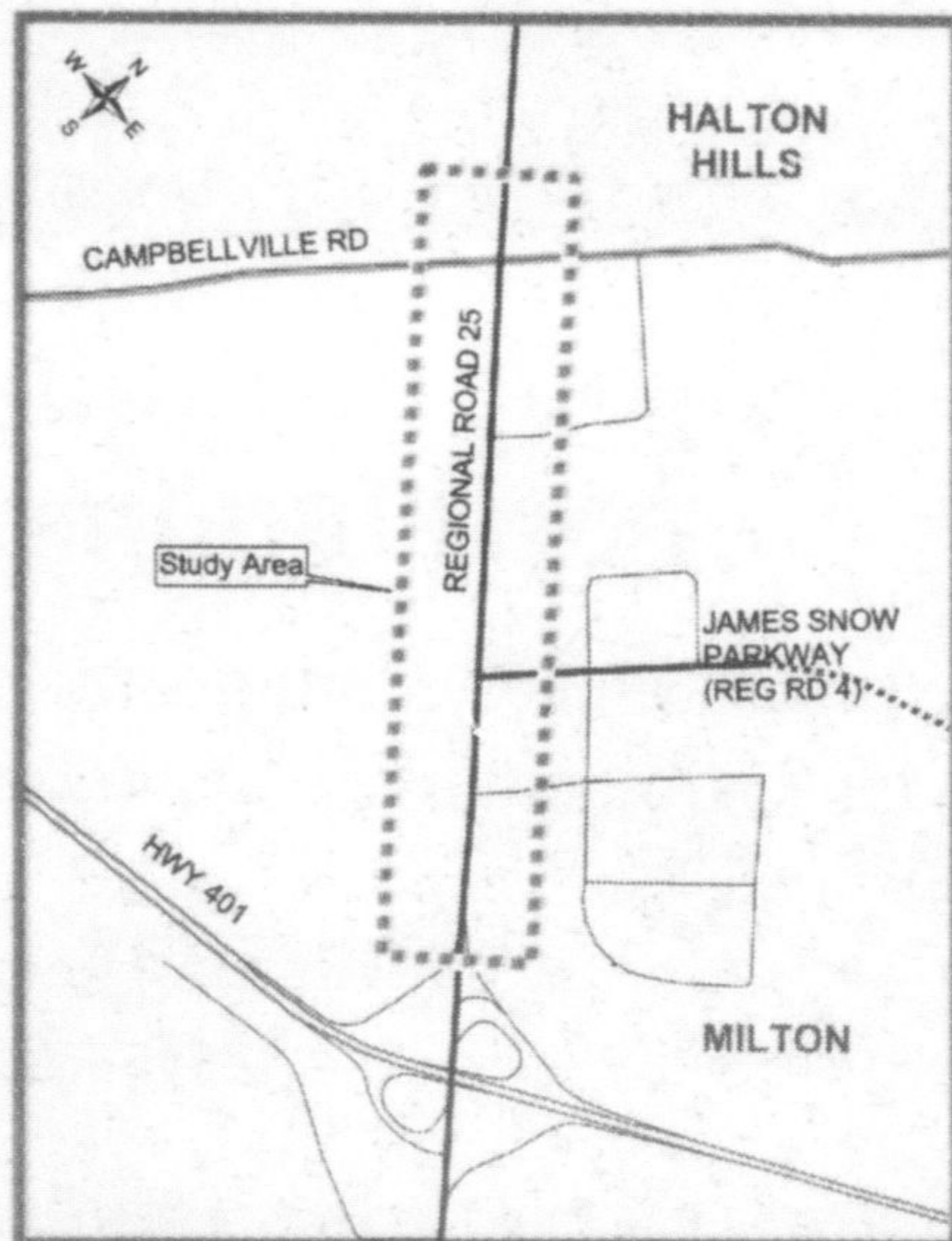
Information requests or questions may be directed to:

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This Notice first issued on January 13, 2006
www.region.halton.on.ca/ppw/planningroads

The map below shows the approximate limits of the study area.



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