

# Resident urges Town to halt development near escarpment

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A local resident is calling on Milton council to stop all development on lands near the Niagara Escarpment.

At its meeting last week, council heard from citizen activist Bob Beyette, who urged councillors to vote against any housing that could be built on the escarpment "shadow lands."

"Not only will this development cause the loss of even more produce-growing farmland, precious green space and water source filtration, it will also destroy the habitat and feeding areas of local wildlife that migrate back and forth to the sheltered woodland areas of the escarpment," he said.

"Before paving over these parcels of land, why not consider turning them into green space — heavily-treed, fresh air and water-flowing parkland that can add much value to our Niagara Escarpment and to our lives too, rather than take away from them."

His request came on the heels of several subdivision proposals for west Milton that, if approved, would bring almost

3,000 homes to the Derry Road/First Line area.

Wards 2 and 4 Councillor Ron Furik asked Beyette how much money he would want the Town to spend to fight this development at the Ontario Municipal Board.

Beyette told him he doesn't know what value to place on greenspace.

"I do appreciate that it might cost money (at the OMB)," he said. "But I think we need to change the way we think about valuable greenspace."

He noted the funds don't necessarily have to be tax dollars and that he would be willing to pitch in money to cover OMB costs.

Ward 3 Councillor Jan Mowbray questioned why Beyette didn't come forward and speak at the public meetings the Town's administration and planning committee held February 20 on the potential developments.

She noted those sessions provided an opportunity for residents to have their thoughts put on the public record.

"That's what part of the whole planning process is," Mowbray said.

Beyette, who did attend the public meetings, said he would've liked to speak then, but didn't feel well, so he chose not to at the time.

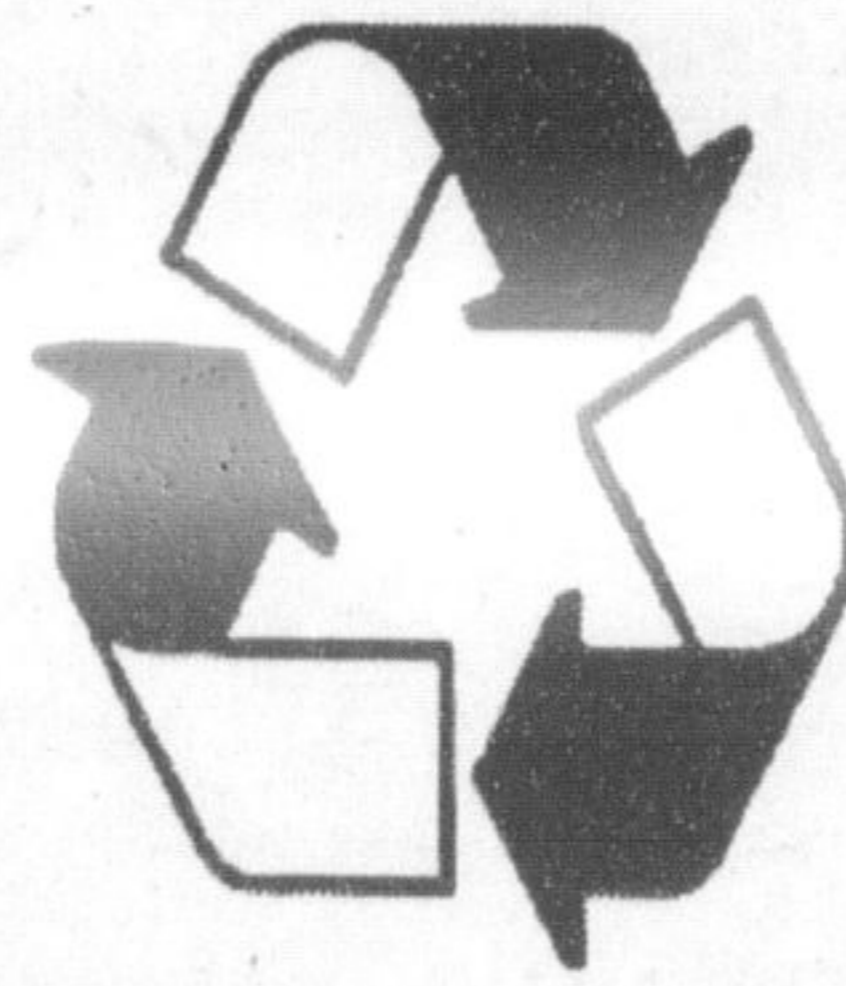
Local residents Tracey Demaline and Angela Michijeli also raised their growth concerns with council at the meeting — more specifically how the Milton District Hospital will handle the extra population down the road if it doesn't get more beds.

Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau said the hospital does have a full expansion plan in place, but it still needs approval from the Province.

Beyette then took the stage again and suggested if the Province is holding something back when it comes to approving the hospital expansion, then the Town should do the same thing and disallow the population growth the Province wants.

No decisions on the proposed subdivisions were made at last week's meeting, since staff has yet to come back with recommendations on whether they should be approved or denied.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at [mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com](mailto:mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com).



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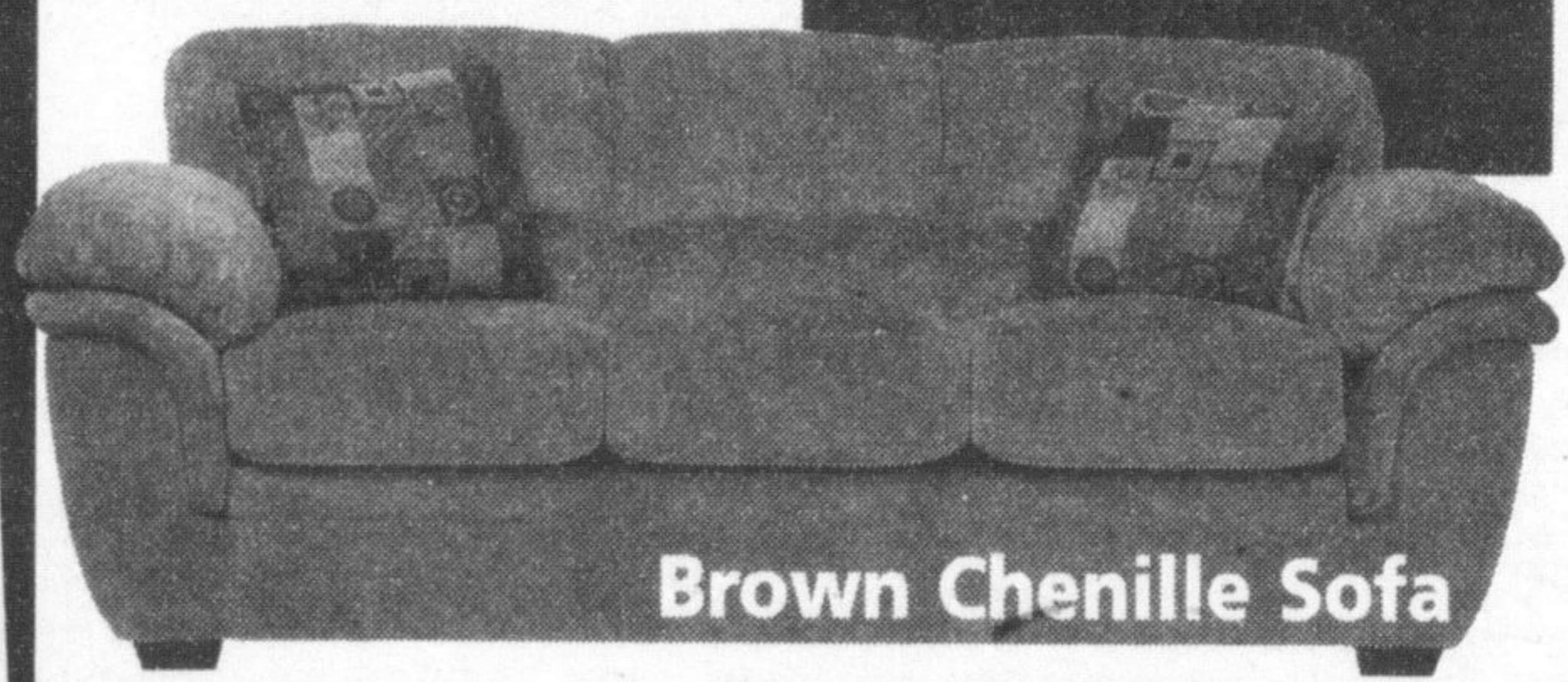
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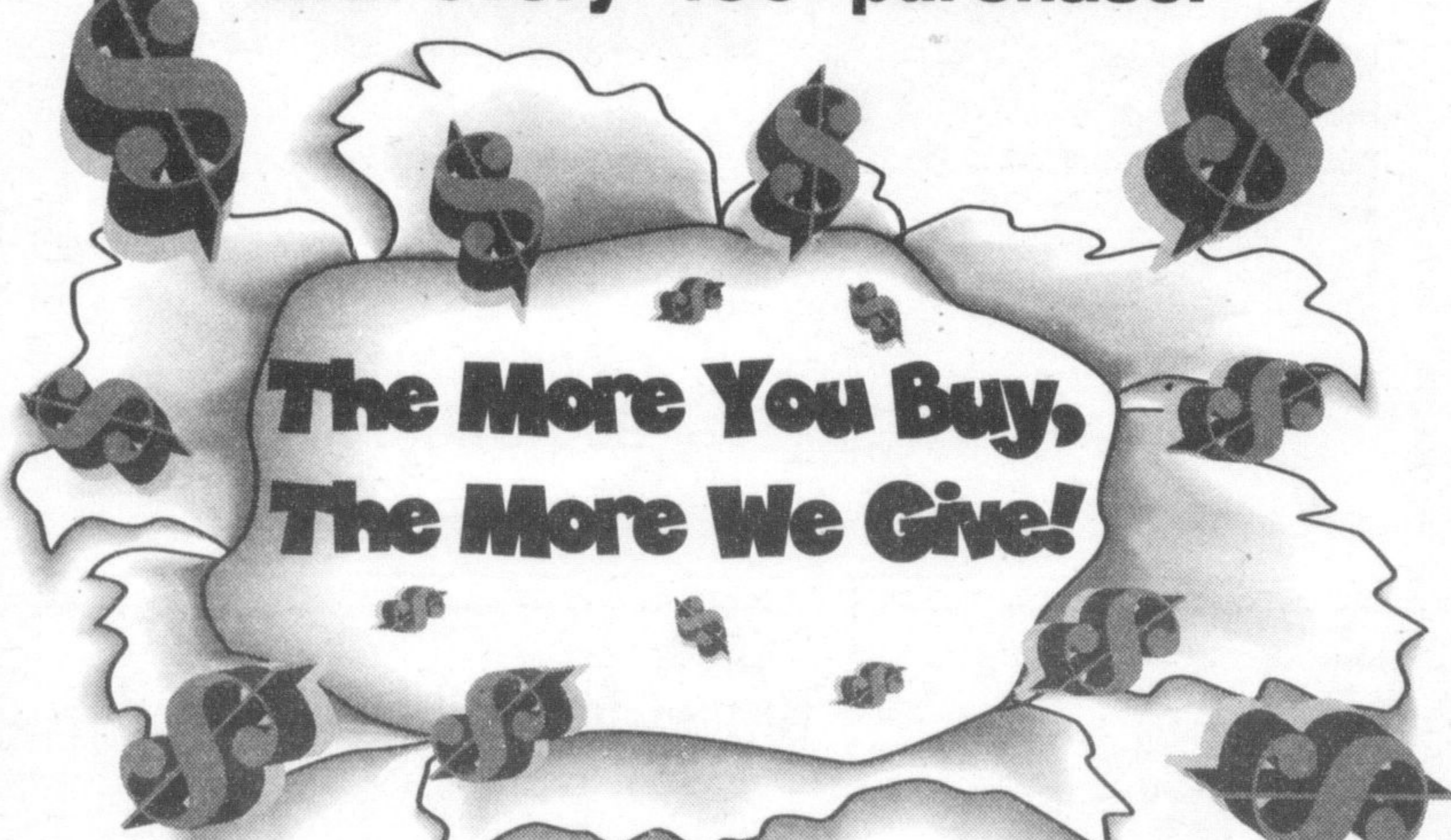
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