Funding is on the way for road improvements

But town councillors wonder why Halton Hills got more

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Province's recently-released budget is paving the way for some road improvements in Milton.

The Town is slated to receive almost \$730,000 in one-time funding from the budget for road and bridge maintenance and construction projects.

The money will come out of a \$1.2-billion provincial program that's designated for transportation related initiatives.

"This is a really good news story for Milton," said Town Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer Linda Leeds.

At Milton council's meeting Monday night, Wards 2 and 4 Councillor Ron Furik questioned why the Town of Halton Hills has been allocated more money than Milton — over \$1 million — under the same program, but isn't growing as fast.

Are they just pulling numbers out of the air?" he asked.

He pointed out he doesn't want to take money away from Halton Hills, but would like to know why the Town was "shortchanged."

Mayor Gord Krantz suggested that staff attempt to find out why there's a discrepancy.

Ward 3 Councillor Jan Mowbray asked if the money could help lower residents' taxes.

Krantz told her that wouldn't happen in 2006, since the budget has already been approved.

He noted whether or not the provin-

cial funds impact next year's tax rate will be up to those who are on council at the time, referring to the municipal election taking place in November.

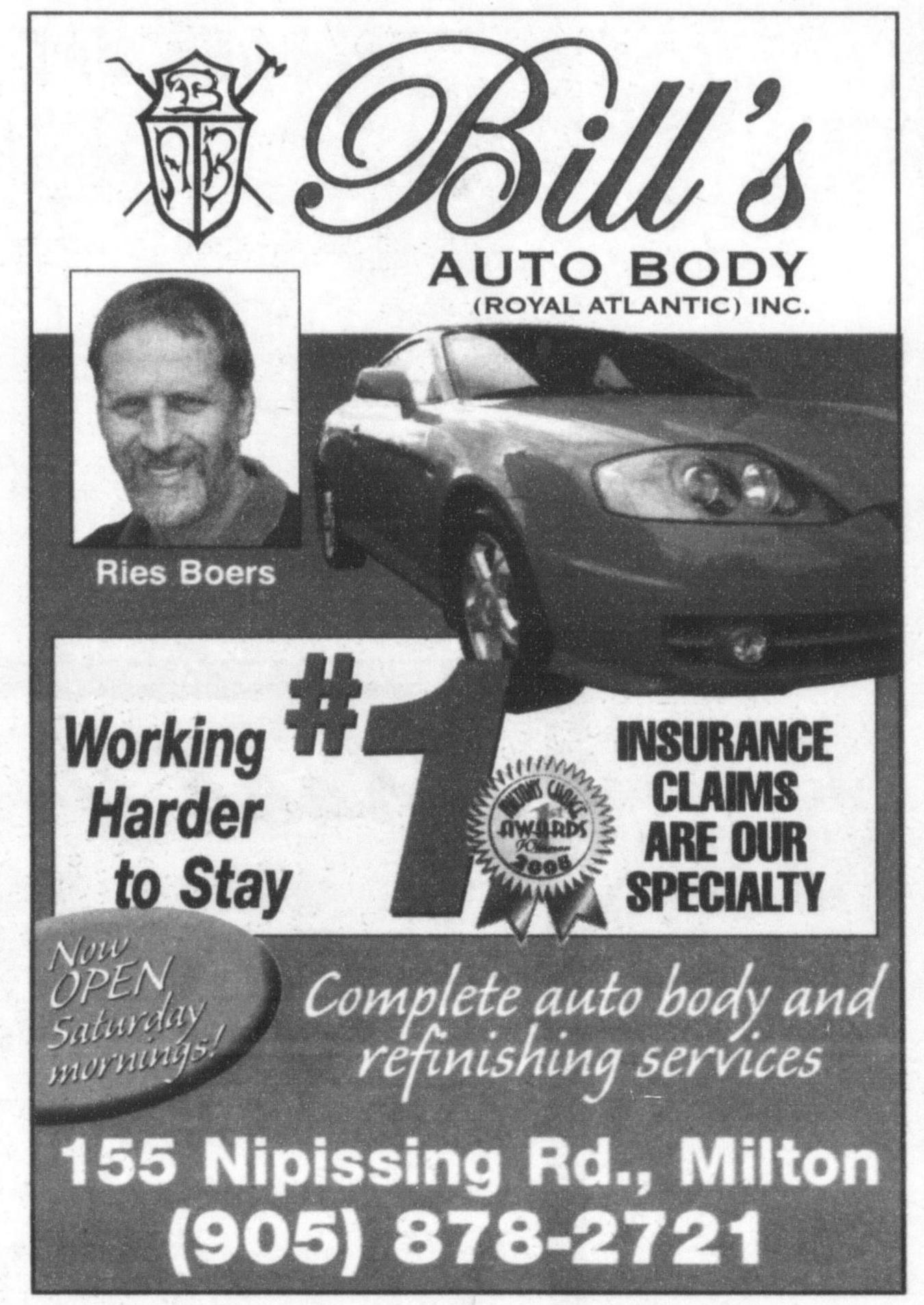
Leeds reported that funding from the Province is expected to flow immediately to take advantage of the approaching construction season.

Town staff will report back to council soon regarding the use of the funds locally.

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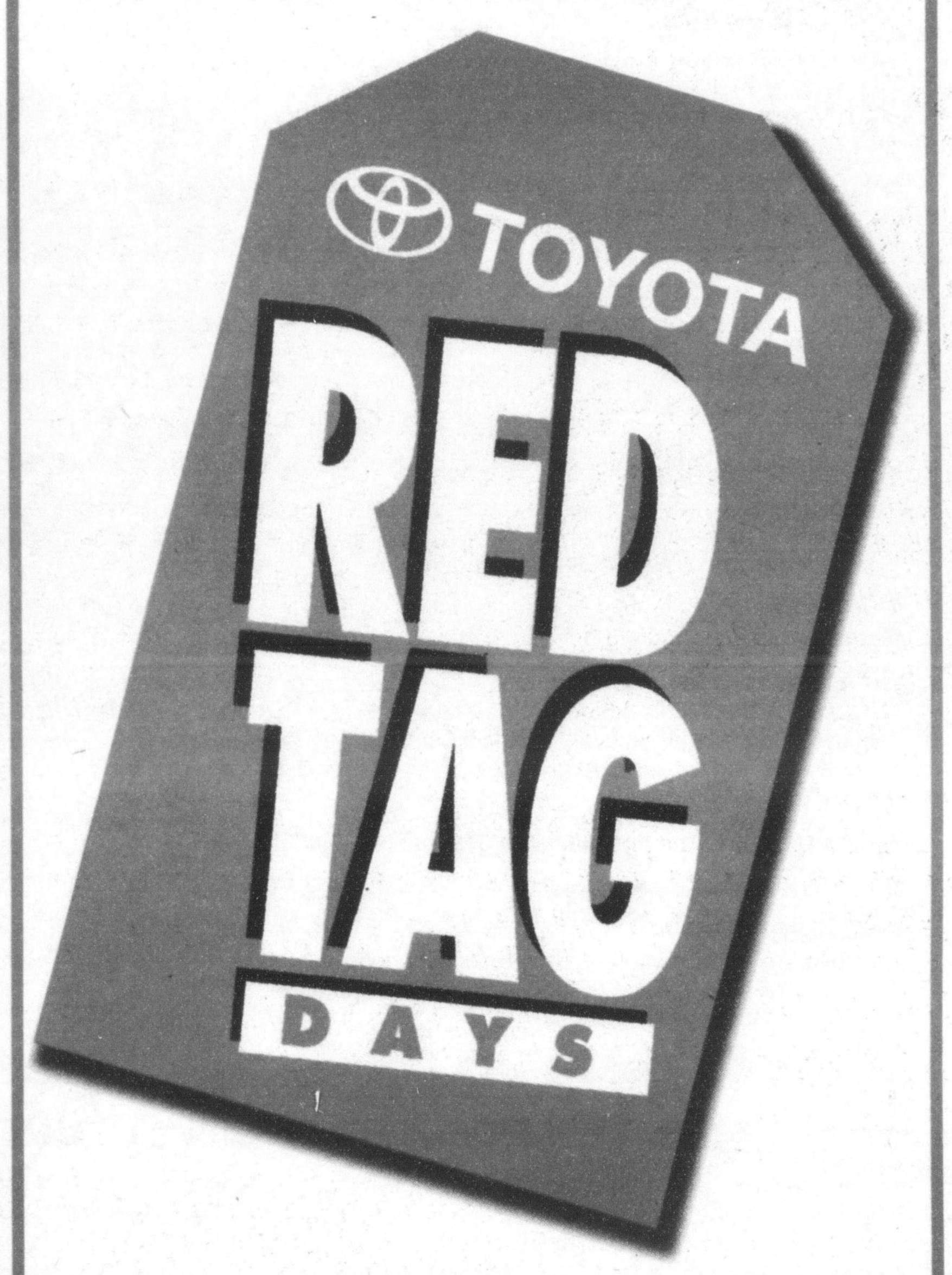
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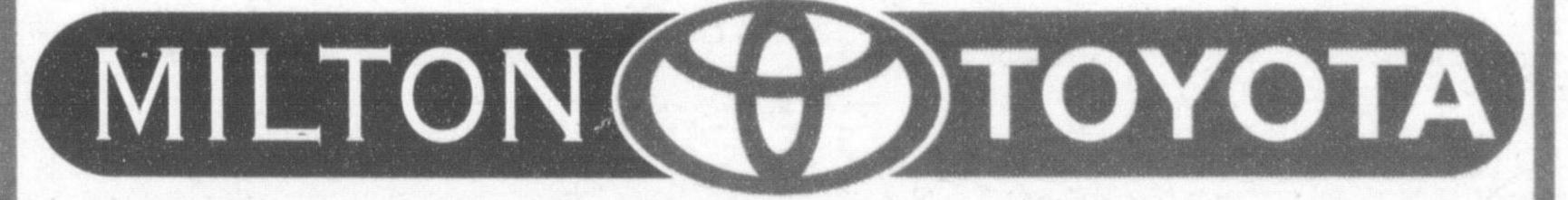
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