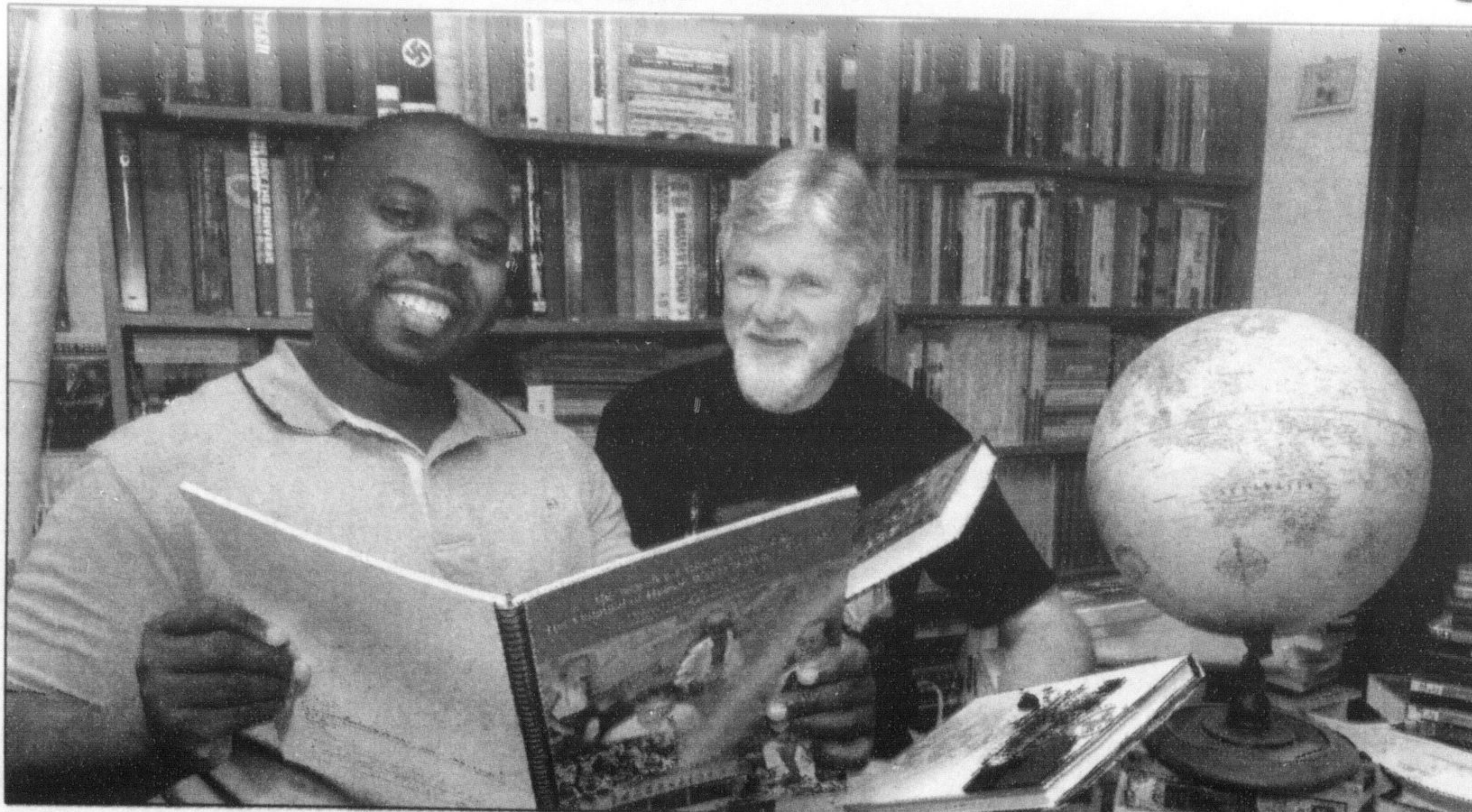


# Teacher helps craft history curriculum resource



Local educators Yaw Obeng (left) and Charles Leskun traveled to China this summer to research the Second World War atrocities inflicted by the Japanese Imperials.

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Recent trips to China have opened Miltonian Charles Leskun's eyes to the horrors experienced by those decades ago at the hands of the Imperial Japanese army.

Now, the local teacher is hoping to make the rest of the province aware of it through a recently-released resource guide he helped craft — with information gathered abroad — that's expected to be used in many Ontario classrooms as part of the high school history curriculum.

Entitled 'The Search for Global Citizenship: The Violation of Human Rights in Asia, 1931-1945', the book takes students back to a time before and during the Second World War when Imperial Japanese forces occupied China and committed almost unspeakable crimes against humanity.

"Some of it was so heinous and so overlooked in history," he said. "You can't imagine this type of brutality."

Take the story of Madam Lui, an elderly Chinese woman who Leskun and the study tour group he was with met and talked to this summer.

As a child, Lui worked in what was called a comfort house, which was in essence a brothel filled with young women and girls established for the Japanese soldiers.

At age 14, Lui was forced to start working as a comfort woman. From then on, her life became one of a sexual slave.

"She was raped repeatedly each day and she ended up becoming sterile," said Leskun.

Lui's story also touched Yaw Obeng, a Milton resident and supervising principal with the Toronto District School Board who accompanied Leskun on the recent study tour.

Obeng highlighted the fact Lui's situation is unique because she found solace at the end of her horrific journey.

She went back to her hometown, located her mother, got married and adopted a child who had been abandoned by his parents.

"They (Lui and her son) built on each other's courage," Obeng said. "Her son encouraged her to speak out about her ordeal."

But not every comfort woman's story had a happy ending. Obeng noted that many women were shunned by their families, with some never disclosing what happened to them until now.


"You feel like you're opening old wounds, but for some it was cathartic," he said. "In their culture, there was a lot of shame around it. It takes a lot of courage to come forward."

And according to Leskun and Obeng, most of the former comfort women, who are now in their seventies and eighties, are living in poverty today.

"They're still suffering because of the atrocities," Leskun said.

The tour group also went to Nanjing, which was the site of a brutal massacre in 1937, and Manchuria, where a biochemical agency of the

• see ATROCITIES on page A16



## The Regional Municipality of Halton

### NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

## 20 Side Road (Regional Road 34) Realignment from Milborough Line to First Line, Town of Milton Class Environmental Assessment Study

The Regional Municipality of Halton is initiating a Class Environmental Assessment to consider safety and traffic operational options for transportation corridor improvements on 20 Side Road (Regional Road 34) from east of Milborough Line to west of First Line, in the Town of Milton (see map below). In order to best address operational deficiencies along the 20 Side Road corridor, a number of road improvement alternatives will be examined as part of the study including realignment of the roadway, cross-sectional elements, driveway improvements, and over-all traffic operations, as well as the impact of such improvements on the social and natural environments.

This notice signals the commencement of the Class Environmental Assessment, a study which will define the problem, identify and evaluate alternative solutions, and determine a preferred solution in consultation with the Town of Milton, regulatory agencies, and the public. The 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.

A key component of the study will be consultation with interested stakeholders (public and regulatory agencies) at two Public Information Centres (PIC). The PICs will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to meet the Project Team, review the study scope and discuss issues related to the project including alternative solutions, environmental considerations and evaluation criteria. The first public meeting will be held in October 2006. Details regarding the forthcoming PICs will be advertised as the study progresses.

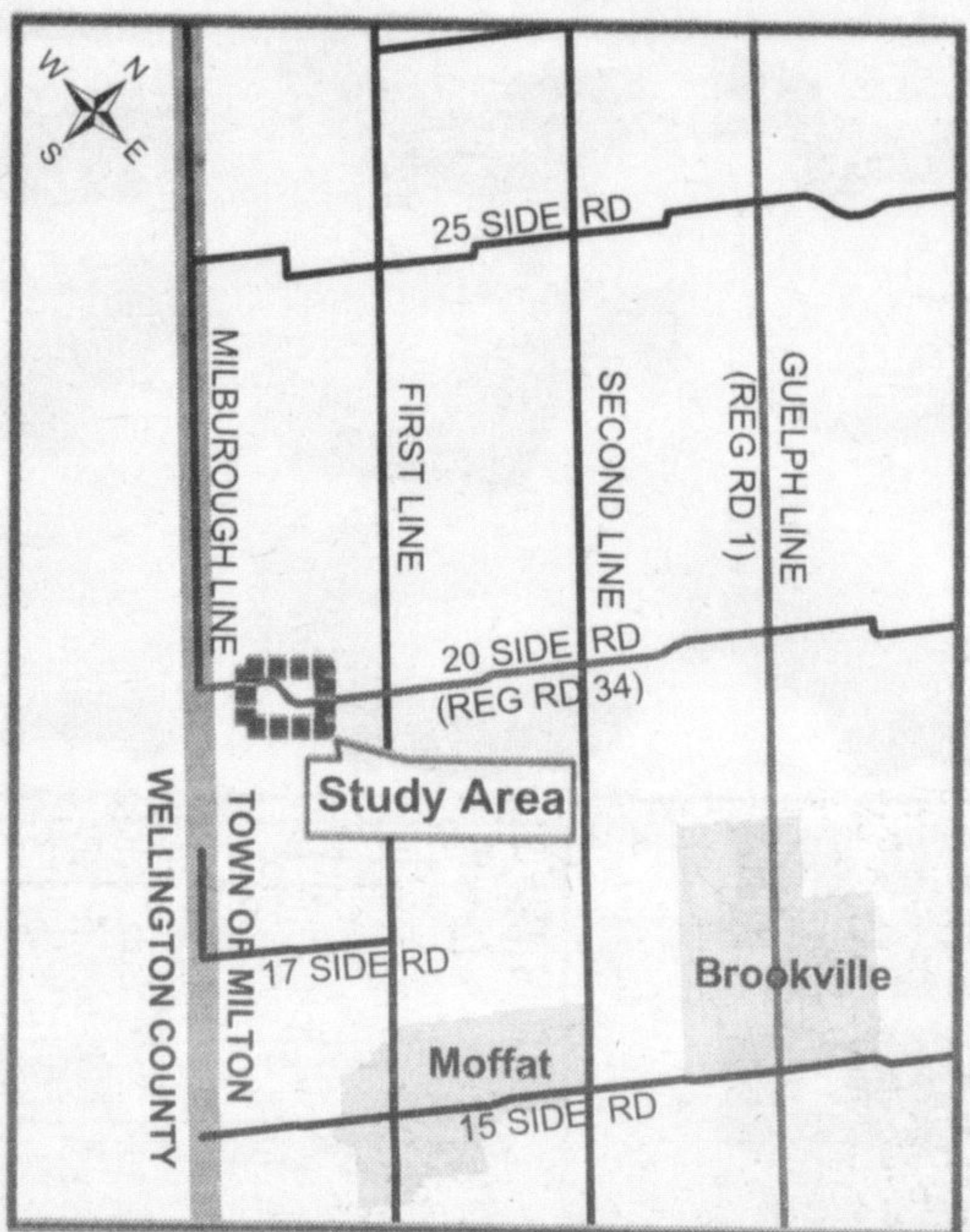
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This Notice first issued on August 18, 2006.  
[www.halton.ca/currentEProjects](http://www.halton.ca/currentEProjects)

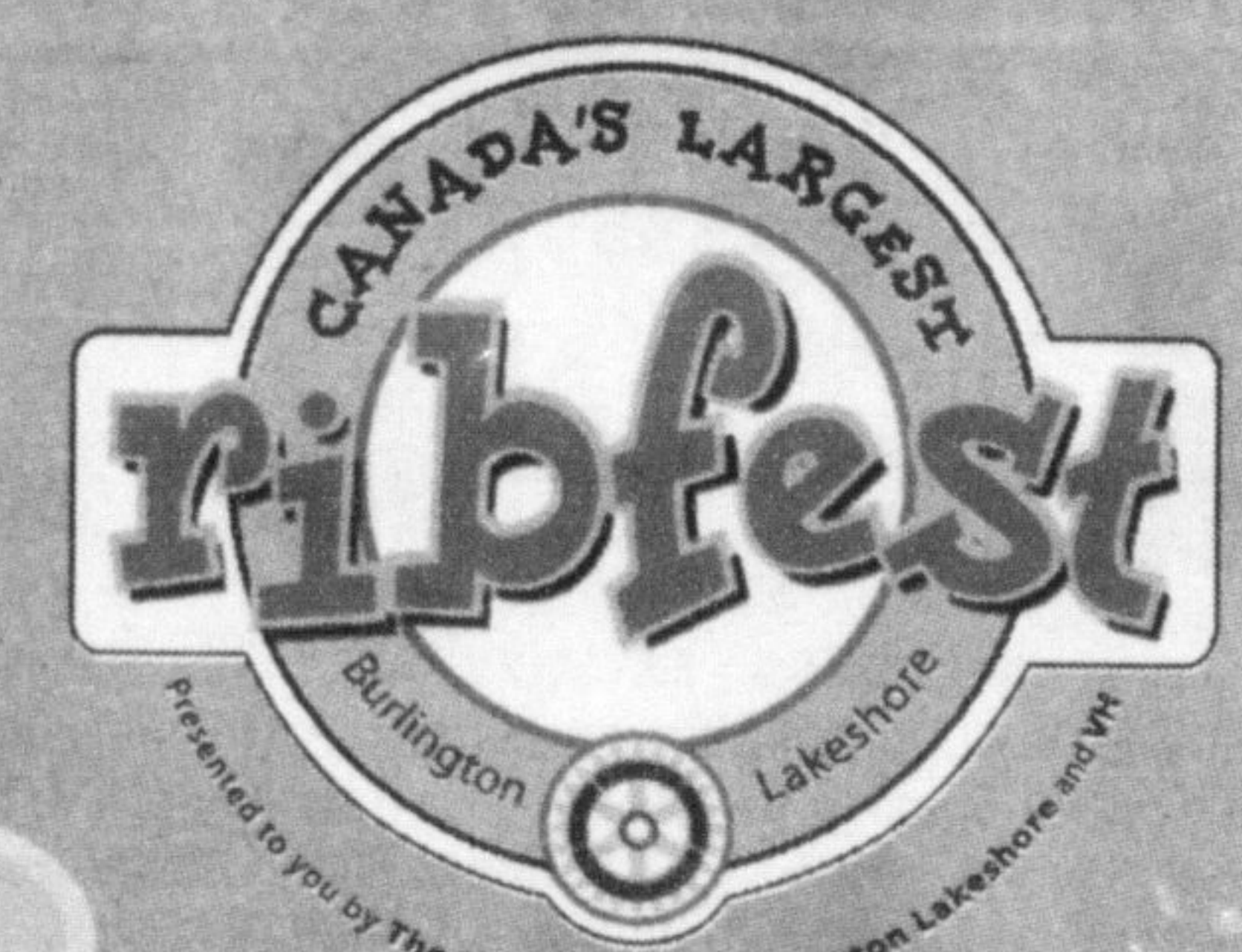
The map below shows the approximate limits of the study area.



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## 2006

Labour Day Weekend



### Great Food & Over Twenty Musical Bands

Date	Time	Featured Band	Special Event
<b>Friday</b> Sept. 1	12 noon to 11 p.m.	<b>Downchild Blues Band</b> Canada's Best Blues Band	Check out our website for a <b>\$3.00 off ribs</b> coupon
<b>Saturday</b> Sept. 2	11 a.m. to 11 p.m.	<b>Jack DeKeyser</b> "Rockin' Blues Show" Juno Award Winner	Saturday afternoon is <b>kids day</b> Free entertainment all day
<b>Sunday</b> Sept. 3	11 a.m. to 11 p.m.	<b>Checkmates</b> "from the 1960's" <b>The Caveners Band</b> "Ultimate Beatles Tribute"	<b>VH Sauces Day</b> at the Park Celebrate the Great Canadian Grill with the VH Rib Off
<b>Monday</b> Sept. 4	11 a.m. to 8 p.m.	<b>Northern Harbour</b> "Jimmy Buffett Tribute Act" "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere"	<b>Best ribs contest awards</b> with 15 teams from across <b>North America</b>

### Crafts • Live Music • Children's Activities

Labour Day Weekend Friday, September 1st to Monday, September 4th  
at Spencer Smith Park in Burlington, Ontario  
[www.canadaslargestribfest.com](http://www.canadaslargestribfest.com)

Free Admission

