

Council defers decision on Brookville Golf Course

By **Melanie Hennessey**
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It looks like council won't be making any decisions on the proposed Brookville Golf Course until the Province issues its water-taking permit.

That was the verdict at last week's administration and planning committee meeting where a motion was put forward to defer the issue until the permit is received.

The plans, which Town staff recommended be approved, call for an 18-hole golf course on Guelph Line, south of No. 20 Sideroad.

Residents both for and against the course turned out at Monday's meeting to voice their thoughts. Neighbouring farmer Sharon Anderson expressed concern about wayward golfers that could trample her crops looking for balls. She also noted that she has permission to spread manure on her land, which could result in "nothing but complaints about odours."

Elizabeth Norrington, who operates a farm beside the proposed course, said she feels a variety of issues she previously raised — largely focused on her water supply — haven't been dealt with. She requested that

the committee defer the proposal until everyone's concerns are addressed.

The golf course's consultant, Glen Wellings, said he was "troubled" by Norrington's comments because numerous efforts have been made and discussions had to resolve her concerns. He noted that they've been monitoring her well and several others in the area since June last year.

He also said that the course will likely be one of the most environmentally friendly in the region, pointing out that the two woodlots on the property will be maintained.

But, local farmer Lieven Gevaert — who recommended committee turn down the proposal — contended that golf courses are "not a friend of the environment." He also questioned whether a wildlife assessment was done on the subject property and what effect a golf ball could have if a cow eats it.

Several residents spoke out in favour of the golf course, such as Eli Daigle, who said he thinks it's something that's needed in north Nassagaweya.

Susan Capone, who owns a property near the course, said since she's employed in the fitness and recreation field, she's pleased that the proposal has come forward.

"I'm also happy to see this would be a

public golf course," she noted.

And Guelph Line bee keeper Danny Bowers said the golf course would actually benefit his business, since it would be home to flowers and trees that would produce nectar for his bees.

Golf course developer Rob Stevens told the committee that he's found the large majority of the property's neighbours support the project. He described the course as family-oriented and affordable. He also noted the course would support local charities and fundraisers if it's given the go-ahead.

Town Senior Manager of Development Review Anne Dawkins acknowledged the public has reported there appears to be activity, like grass planting and stock piling of materials, already taking place on the property. She also said while the developer applied for a site alteration permit, it wasn't granted because council had yet to make a decision on the proposal. The Town then issued a stop work order to prevent any further alterations.

Wellings explained that grass seeding occurred to eliminate erosion and the stockpiles at the front of the property — from the Guelph Line construction project — are actually on the Region's land. He also point-

ed out dead trees have been removed and almost 1,000 seedlings have been planted.

Stevens said prior to the stop work order, some loads of recycled gravel were brought in. He noted that if the golf course is never approved, the gravel could then be used to fix the land's current laneways.

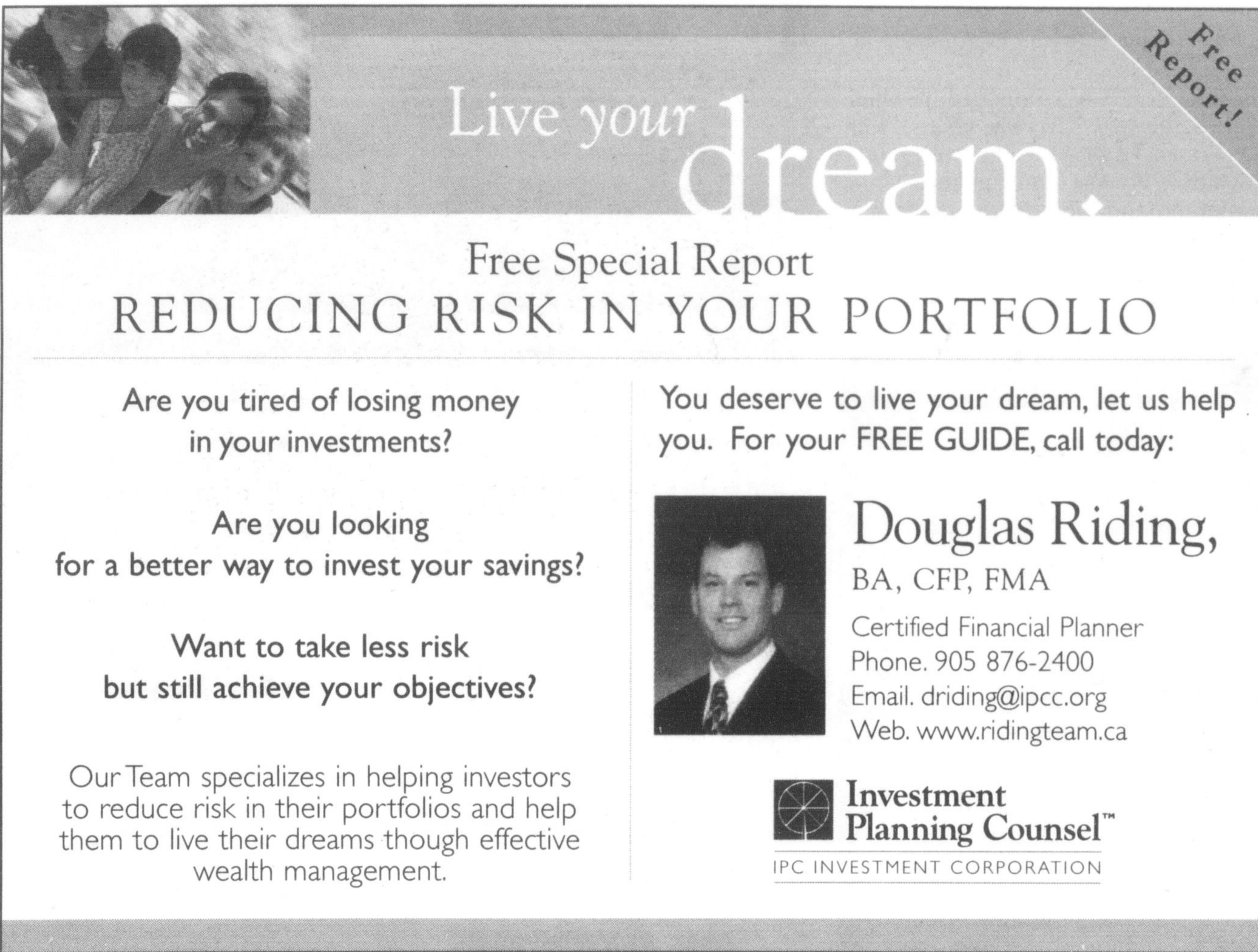
Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau questioned why the site the golf course is proposed for is "so ideal" when there are many other 100-acre parcels in Nassagaweya.

Dawkins said the land was available to purchase and it has relatively few environmental constraints, such as the fact it's not encumbered by trees.

Fellow Ward 3 Councillor Jan Mowbray said in her opinion, there's a shortage of public golf courses like the Brookville Golf Course. She also noted that many local residents support such a type of "inexpensive entertainment."

Ward 4 Councillor John Challinor ultimately put forward the motion to defer the matter. He explained that while he has no objection to the course, he said there are some issues that need to be dealt with before approval.

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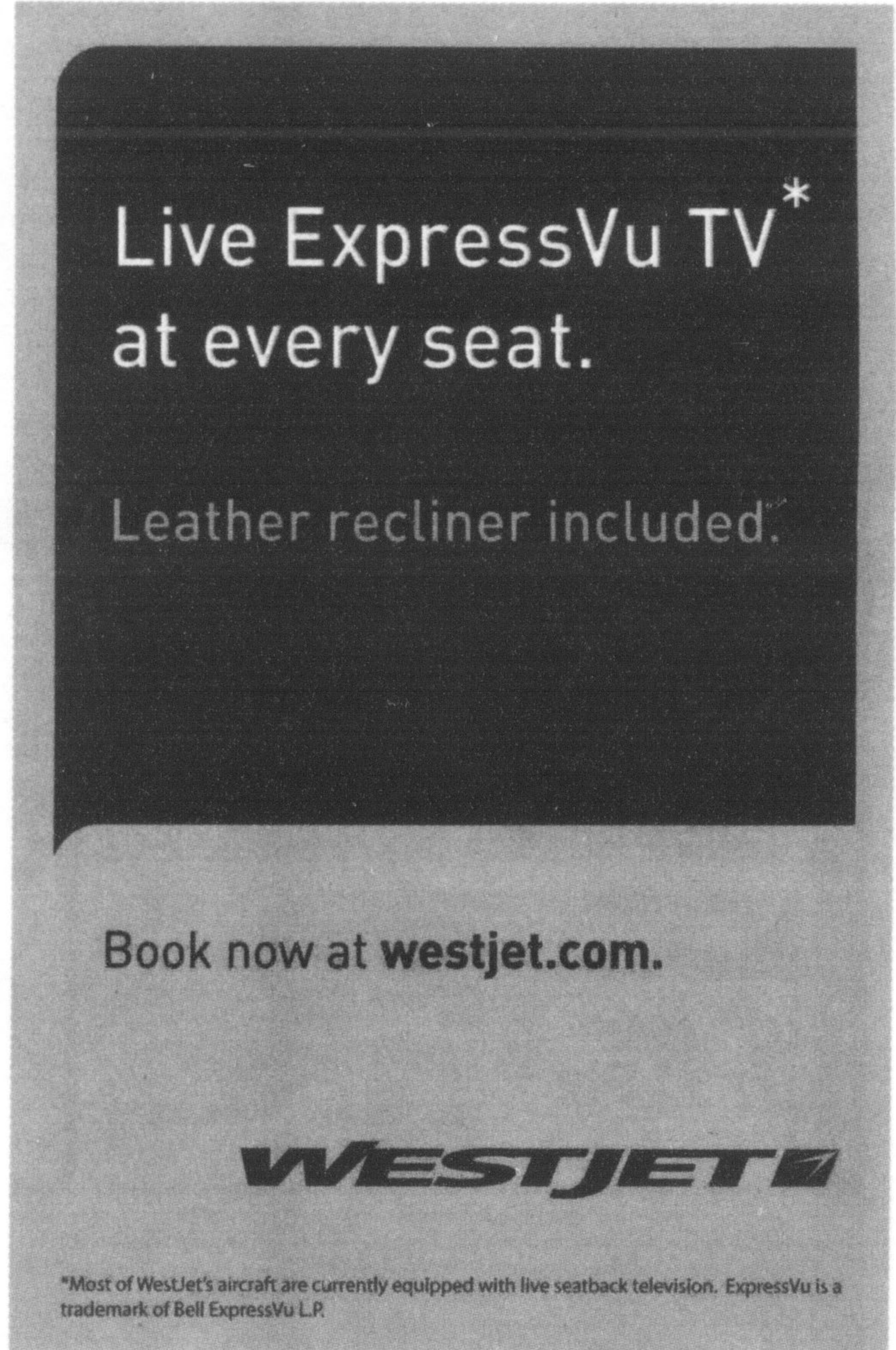
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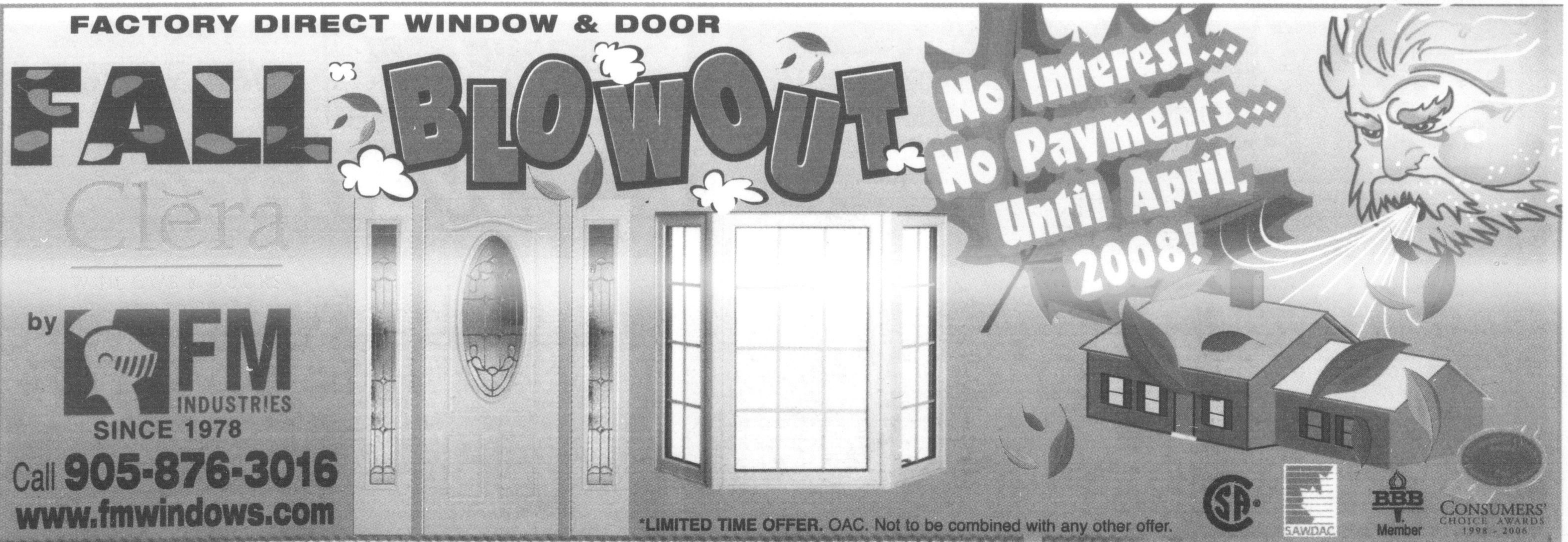
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