

First World War's affect on Milton comes to life in book

All too many Miltonians were struck by the crippling effects of the First World War.

In fact, the lives of very few — if townsfolk remained untouched.

More than 80 local men lost their lives, while a total of 450 served in combat.

November 4, the Milton Historical Society will host book signings at two locations to celebrate the release of 'The Men We Never Knew' by former Canadian Champion publisher and local historian Jim Dills and Ward 4 Councillor John Challinor.

The book chronicles the story of life in Milton during the war and the inevitable crushing news of tragedy that rocked the community all too

With 170 pictures, the book depicts Milton as a community that stood together and gives a historical account of a lost generation.

The signings will take place from 10 a.m. to noon at Waldie's Blacksmith Shop, 16 James St., and from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Milton branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, 21 Charles St.

Players take risk and it pays off

Anyone who has had a falling out with a close friend — and most of us have — can understand the inner anguish it causes. The knot in the stomach, the anger that moves to tears.



Back stage

with STEPHANIE THIESSEN

In 1960, Londoner Barbara Jackson experienced the severing of a dear friendship for an extraordinary reason: she discovered her friend and next-door neighbour was a Russian spy.

It's a story that was splashed across newspapers worldwide in 1961.

Adapted for the stage by playwright Hugh Whitemore, Pack of Lies explores this fascinating story from the perspective of the deceived friends and neighbours.

The script has all the elements one would expect from a top-grossing movie or smash-hit play — suspense, betrayal, love, affection and dilemmas. And yet, it's true, adding a particular poignancy.

The Milton Players Theatre Group has opened its 27th season with Pack of Lies, an ambitious undertaking considering it usually chooses comedies.

Last Friday's performance at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre may have had its share of opening-night slip-ups, but they did little to take away from the powerful performance the Players pulled off.

The fact almost everyone has experienced a serious conflict with a trusted friend makes the play something everyone can relate to. The fact no one in the audience - I'd safely hazard to guess — has ever discovered a friend was a spy for a foreign country left us in the position of wondering, "What would I do?"

The early scenes give the audience a taste of the special bond formed over the years between Barbara Jackson, played by Carol Beauchamp, and Helen Kroger, played by Kathy Coats.

Then the Jacksons' lives are turned upside down when an investigator informs them of suspicions the Krogers are involved in espionage and requests the use of an upstairs window to keep an eye on their friends.

The Jacksons reluctantly agree. Slowly, the burden of their own deceit begins to take a toll on Barbara and her husband Bob, played by Geoff Ford.

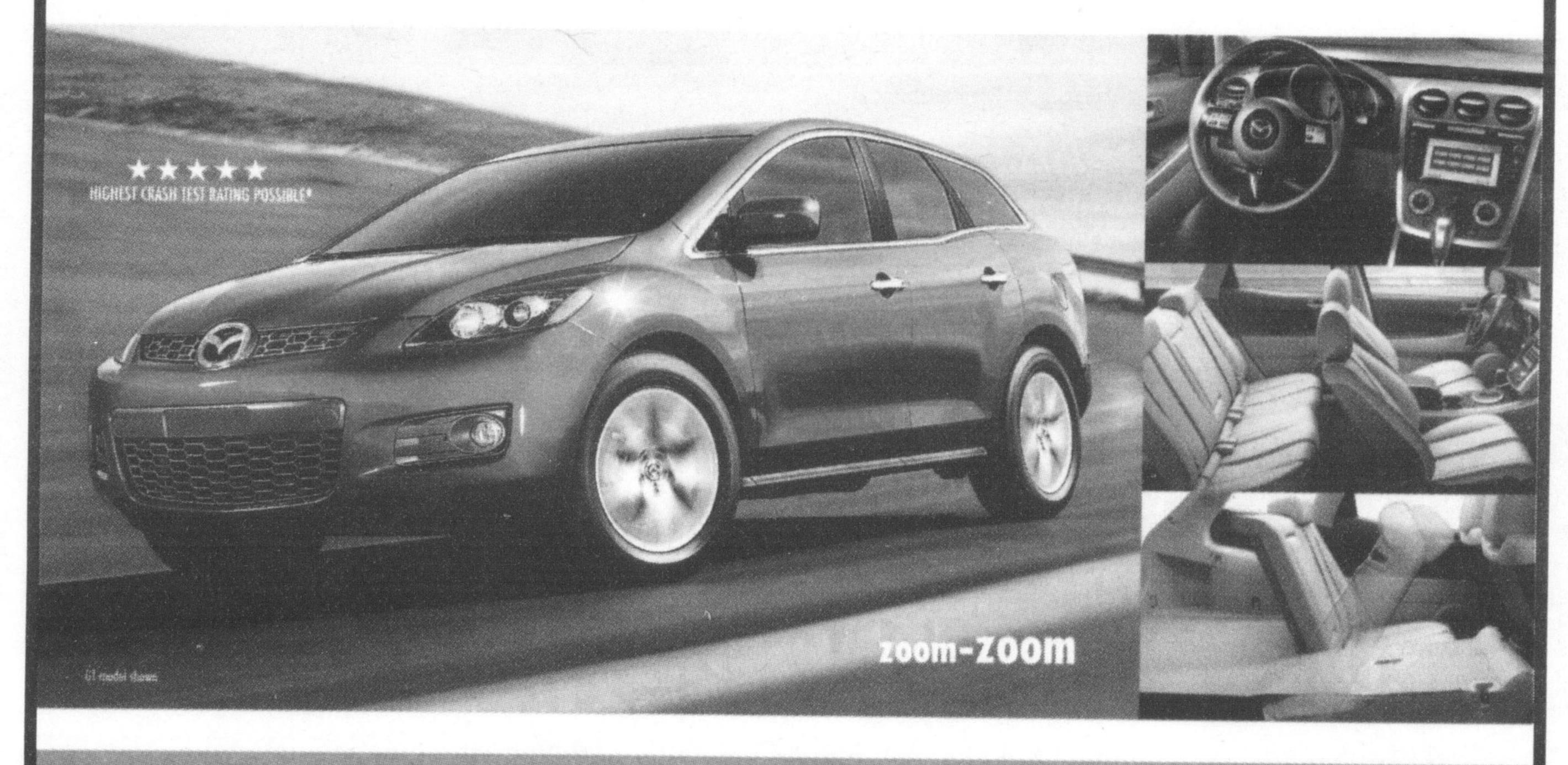
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Beauchamp's performance is captivating. In a particularly see BEAUCHAMP on page B3



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