### Mohawk golf course, resort hotel approved

Town council unanimously voted in support of Mohawk Racetrack's expansion plans this week.

The project that will see a golf course, hotel and conference centre built on Mohawk's Guelph Line property was endorsed by council at its meeting Monday night.

But the plans still have a few hurdles to clear before ground can break. Regional council must approve an Official Plan amendment, and Woodbine Entertainment Group — which owns Mohawk — also has an outstanding appeal of the Town's comprehensive zoning bylaw at the Ontario Municipal Board that has to be dealt with.

There was little discussion at council before the unanimous vote, with Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau simply stating that this is one of the more important issues she's dealt with during her time on council.

Woodbine intends to build an 18-hole, championship-style golf course and 10-storey, 216-room hotel that would include an informal dining room, fine dining restaurant, two lounges/bars, spa, indoor pool, full fitness facilities, a 25,000-square-foot meeting/conference space and 30,000-

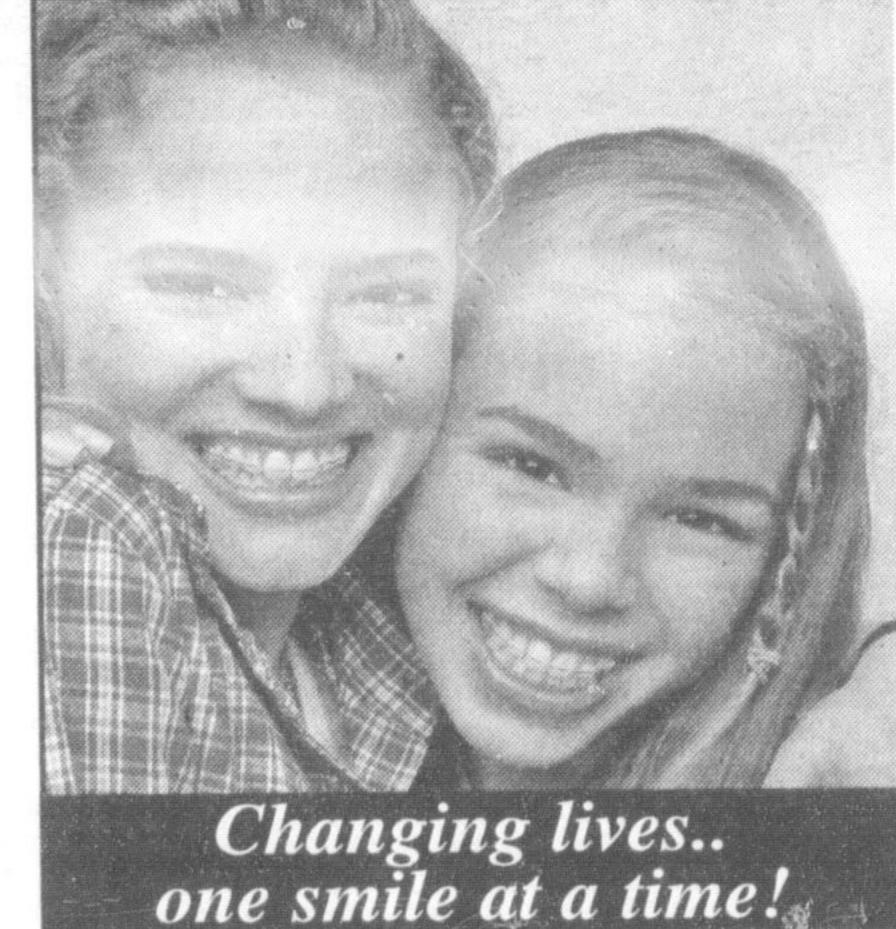
square-foot meeting/exhibition space.

The plans have been years in the making. Town council first held a public meeting on the proposal in 2003. But shortly after that, the Province's Greenbelt Act process started, which left Woodbine waiting to see how the new legislation could impact the property. The new act ultimately didn't affect the Mohawk lands.

To make way for the golf course, 27 hectares, or 44 per cent of the existing forest cover, will have to be removed. Mohawk plans to replant as many trees as it can. The loss may even result in Woodbine purchasing 27 acres of wooded lands elsewhere that would go into public ownership.

The construction phase would result in \$84 million in expenditures in the region for materials, salaries and services and 1,400 person years (the equivalent of one person working a full year) of direct and indirect employment.

Once the expanded Mohawk site is up and operating, it's expected to bring 68,000 new visitors to the region annually and \$47 million in expenditures, along with 300 person years of employment



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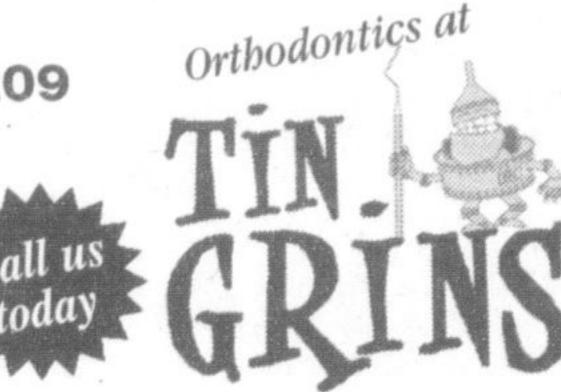
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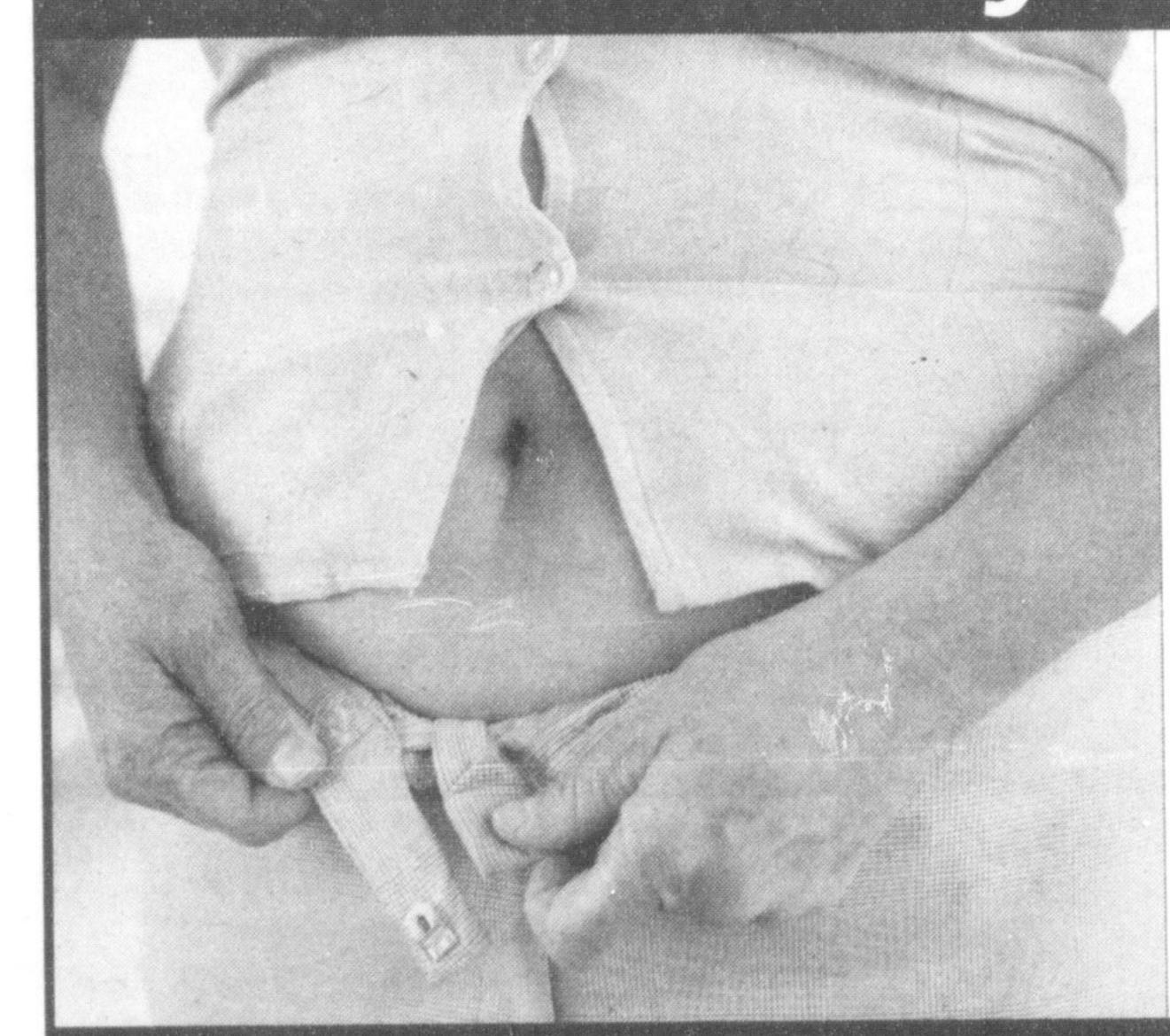
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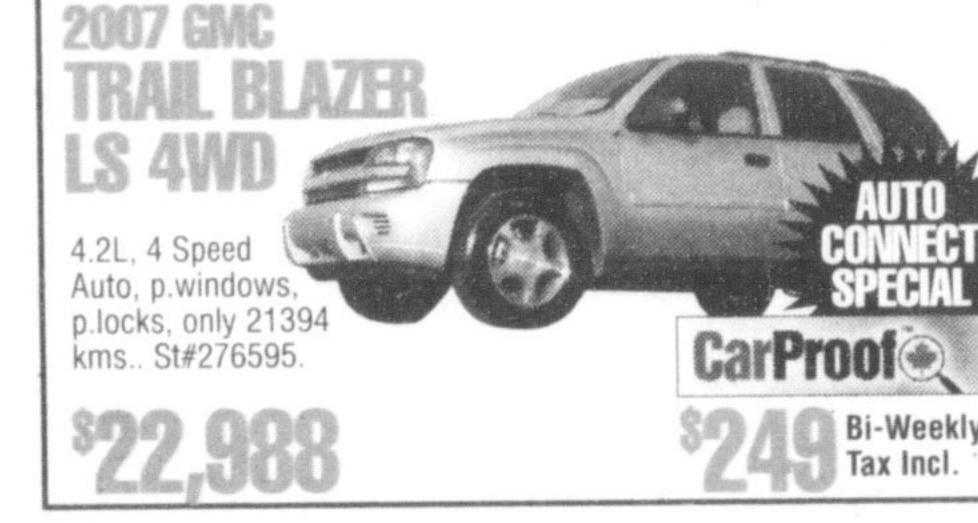
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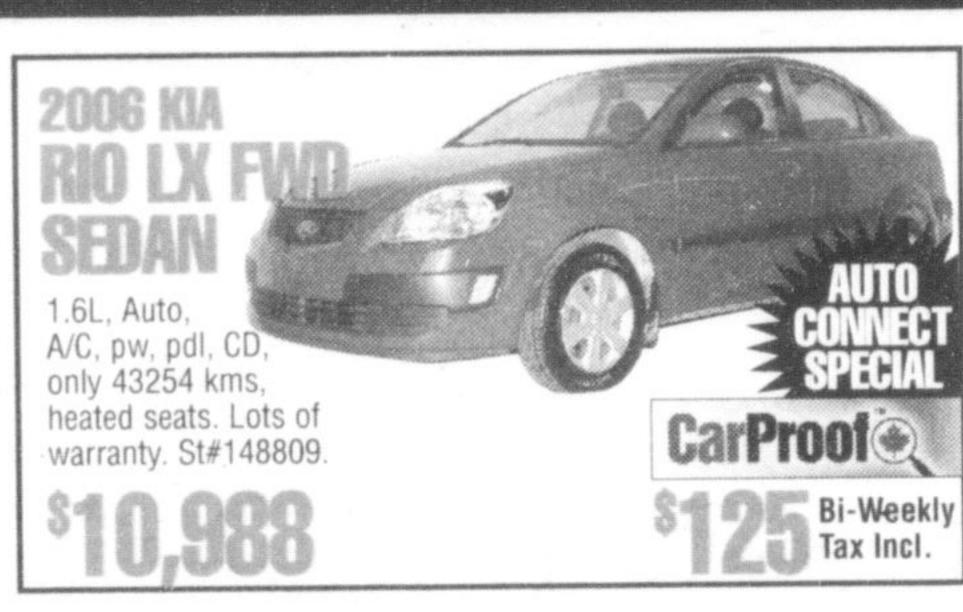


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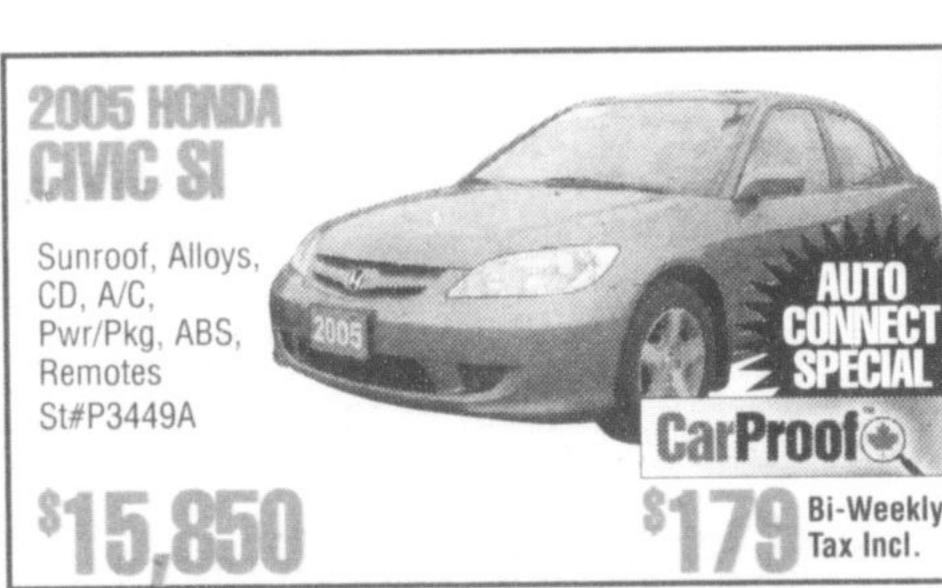








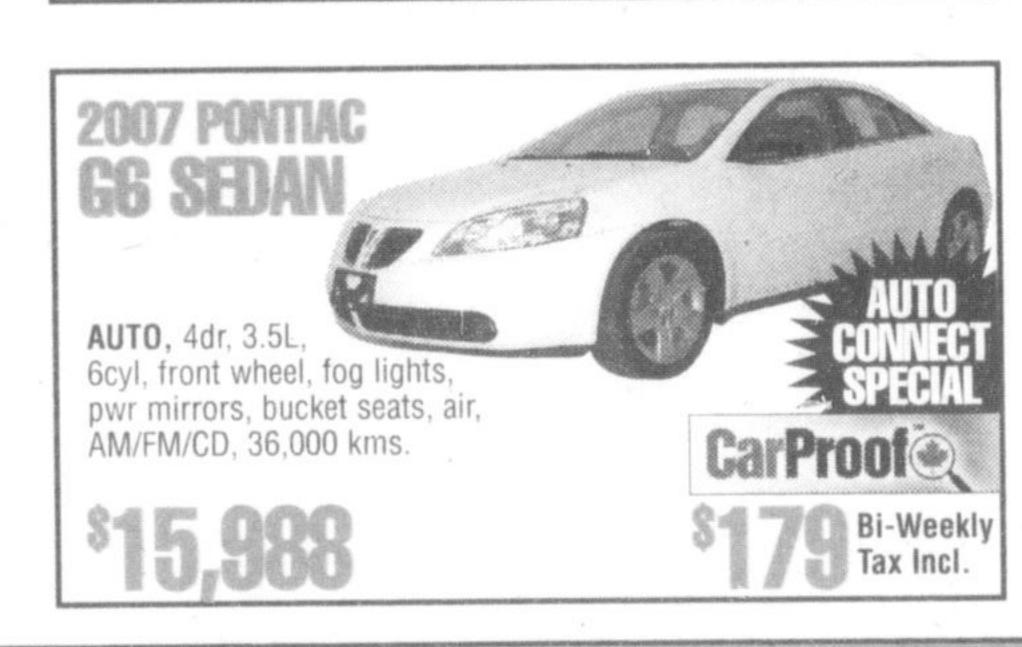
















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