

Local band looks to be 'Best of the West'

No Reason to Stay vies to get the nod from Halton voters

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Ask the four members of local punk/pop band No Reason to Stay to name their most memorable performance, and they'll no doubt give the same response.

It was the one they played recently at St. Paul's church with the Flatliners, a mainstay in the punk music scene.

"They're personally my favourite band so I was pretty pumped," said drummer Jordan Plourde.

Bassist Jason McBride echoed his sentiments: "Flatliners is one of my favourite bands, so it was great to play with them."

How the group of 16 and 17-year-old Bishop Reding students landed the impressive gig is beyond even them — particularly since it was just their second performance.

All they know is they asked and the show organizer okayed, teaching them a valuable lesson about the importance of being assertive.

They've also gotten a crash course on taking advantage of opportunities that present themselves as they try their best to get their name out there.

When vocalist and guitarist Matt Poulton recently entered the band in Metroland's Best of the West Battle of the Bands competition, he was doing just that.

As Milton's representative in the competition, No Reason to Stay will now go up against the finalists from Burlington and Oakville — We Are Bravest and Alright Alright, respectively.

Links to videos posted by each of the bands on YouTube will appear for one week at www.miltoncanadianchampion.com starting Monday as well as on the websites of the



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

READY TO ROCK: No Reason to Stay members (from left) Jason McBride, Thomas Tonhauser, Jordan Plourde and Matt Poulton eagerly await the next stage of Metroland's Best of the West Battle of the Bands competition.

Burlington Post and the Oakville Beaver.

Readers are encouraged to vote for their favourite band, and the champion will be invited to participate on stage at this year's Burlington Sound of Music Festival in June and be featured again in print — this time in each of the participating community newspapers.

No Reason to Stay formed last summer and, in addition to Jordan, Matt and Jason, includes Tom Tonhauser on guitar and vocals.

Though still a new band, members have already taken to the studio, recording three songs, which can be heard on-line at www.myspace.com/noreasonstomusic.

They'll soon release an EP entitled *An Early Climax*.

No Reason to Stay performs mostly original music that appeals to people in their age group who can relate to the lyrics. They're fun, often humorous songs with catchy melodies, Matt said.

The band also performs some covers, mostly songs by Blink 182, which Jordan said is the band's biggest influence.

The tight-knit group goes as far back as elementary school, when they all attended St. Peter's together. The fact they're best friends makes the whole band experience seem a lot less like work, Jordan said.

But although they have a great time together, there are certainly challenges, namely finding venues in which to play. Matt explained with Milton's population explosion, there are many new, young bands form-

ing and vying for limited spaces in which to perform.

"You make friends with the bands, but there's always some competition," he said.

Without the Internet, Matt said he doesn't know where the band would be — most likely nowhere. Putting their songs up on MySpace is an easy, cheap way for the group to get exposure and gives their fans instant access, he said.

Just as the guys have the same favourite memory, performing with the Flatliners, they also have the same goal.

"We just kind of want to expose our music to the world — that's every band's dream," Matt said.

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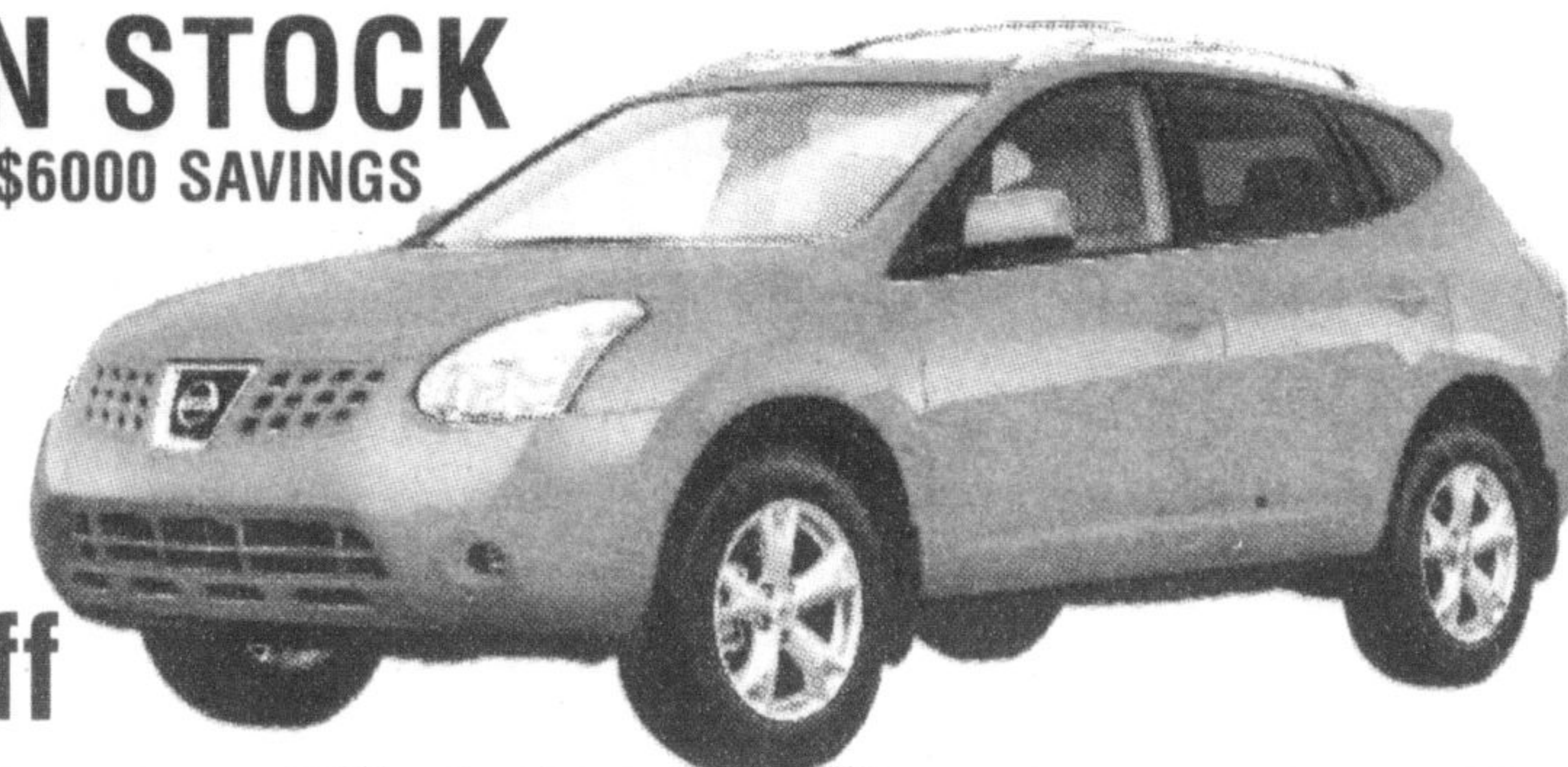
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