By Tim Foran
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Following a three-year planning process, Halton Region will release a proposed Official Plan amendment guiding growth and development to 2031 and beyond at a series of open houses beginning next week.

Dubbed ROPA 38, the amendment incorporates the results of the Region's Sustainable Halton planning exercise to accommodate new population and job growth. It also modifies the 2006 Regional Plan so it conforms with provincial planning acts and policies including the Greenbelt Plan and the Places to Grow Act, specifically the act's Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The Growth Plan outlines a target for Halton to reach 780,000 residents and 390,000 jobs by 2031, which will actually require the Region to slow down slightly the rate of growth it has experienced over the past 20 years, according to Ron Glenn, the Region's director of planning.

The Region's population stands at 480,000, according to recent statistics, meaning Halton must plan to accommodate 300,000 more people. Much of that planning work was already done in the 1990s when the Region outlined major growth areas in Oakville and Milton. Another 155,000 new residents, mostly in north Oakville and Milton, will come to under-construction or already-planned areas, Glenn confirmed.

For the remaining 145,000 people, the

Dr. David Johnson

southview

Region envisions approximately 61,000 will be accommodated in infill developments within the already built boundaries of Halton's major urban areas. Specifically, much of that population would be focused in the provincially-outlined urban growth centres of downtown Milton, downtown Burlington and midtown Oakville.

New "greenfield" growth areas — essentially designating currently agricultural and rural lands for urban development — in Milton and Georgetown would accommodate populations of about 60,000 and 20,000 respectively between 2021 and 2031.

Regional council already endorsed in June a preferred option for where those residential areas as well as future employment zones would be located, included on the main land use designation map in ROPA 38.

To see ROPA 38 in its entirety, visit www.halton.ca and search 'ROPA 38.'

The dates for the ROPA 38 open houses are as follows (all times 6 to 9 p.m., with presentation at 7 p.m.).

- Wednesday, Oct. 14 at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr.
- Thursday, Oct. 15 at The Hall, Mold-Masters Sportsplex, 221 Guelph St. (Hwy 7), Halton Hills
- Tuesday, Oct. 20 at St. Bernadette School, 1201 Heritage Way, Oakville
- Wednesday, Oct. 21 at St. John School, 653 Brant St., Burlington

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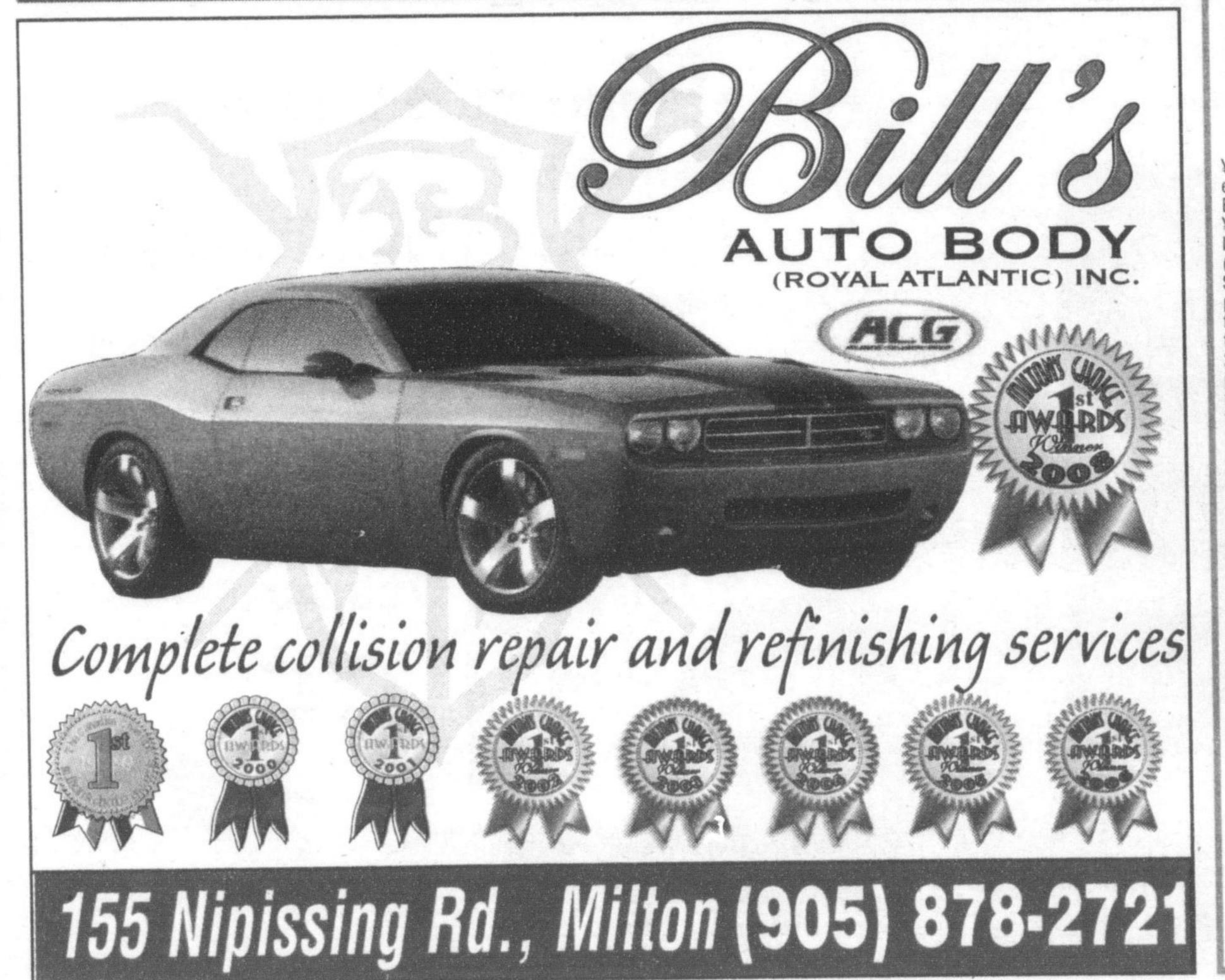
2010 RAV4 (Model ZF4DVPA). Monthly payment is \$259 with a \$3,621 down payment or trade equivalent, and fi rst monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is \$16,053 plus freight and PDE of \$1,490. Based on a maximum of 96,000 KMS. Additional KM charge of \$.10 for excess kilometres if applicable. †These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. All rights are reserved. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Quantities of certain vehicles are limited and dealer trade may be required. Dealer trade availability may also be limited and will vary by model. Offers valid between October 1 and October 31, 2009 and are subject to change without notice. Please see your participating Toyota Dealer for full details.

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