

Summer's got me thinking

Some random summer thoughts. Why? Because summer started Monday.

• There's no doubt there's a parking problem in Milton, especially in the new sections. The Town probably should have forced the building of two-car driveways in their new home permits, but they didn't, and I don't even know if they could. In any event, I have the solution: valet parking. That's right. Each area has its own crew; all you have to do is call the special hotline and they come and take your car away or bring it back.

• The other day I was determined I was finally going to quit smoking. I got everything ready: bought some unhealthy snacks, cleared my calendar, got rid of all my cigarettes, and prepared myself mentally. The next thing I did was go to the store and get more cigarettes. One of these days.

• I don't like soccer, and I don't get into the World Cup spirit. Even so, every four years I'll watch the games and cheer for the underdogs. Except this year. I tuned in several times and might have actually enjoyed it, except for those vuvuzela horns blaring throughout the entire game. It was worse than a mosquito buzzing in my ear. I'll try again in another four years.

• I was at the hospital recently to welcome my third granddaughter, all three of them born in Milton. When I left and saw my parking charge I tried to paint my name on the parking spot, but was informed that you don't get to keep the parking space — it's only a rental fee. Nice hospital, great staff, excellent care, horrendous parking rates.



with MURRAY TOWNSEND

On the loose

Maybe that's another solution to the parking problem. Let people park on the streets but charge them the same rates as they do at the Milton hospital. At that cost nobody will be parking on the streets for long.

• Speaking of public service announcements, you might get confused like me on bulk garbage days when you put stuff out and some of it is still there after the garbage truck goes by. If an object is mostly metal they won't take it, and apart from that they only take three bulk items per household to ensure they have enough space in the truck. For special metal pick-up you can call 311 and they'll schedule a date for you.

• Time for teens to find a summer job, if they still do that nowadays. When I was a teen everybody had to get one. The worst one I had was working the midnight shift in a plastics factory, lifting 50-pound bags all night while my boss slept and my supposed partner drank mysterious liquids from a paper bag. The best was in a refrigerated grocery chain warehouse — nice and cool and all the fruit you could eat, as long as it had fallen on the floor first.

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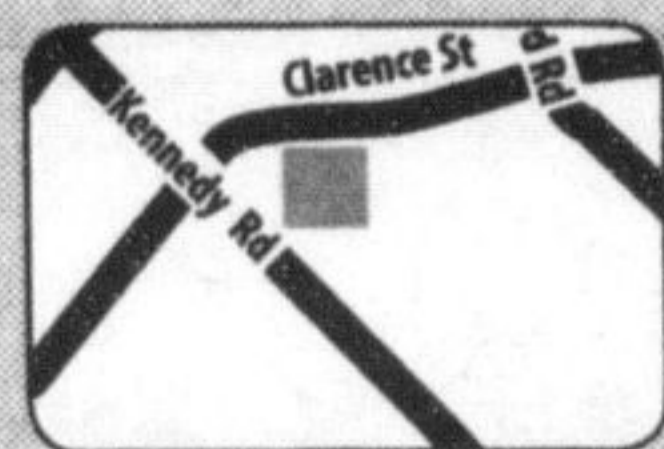
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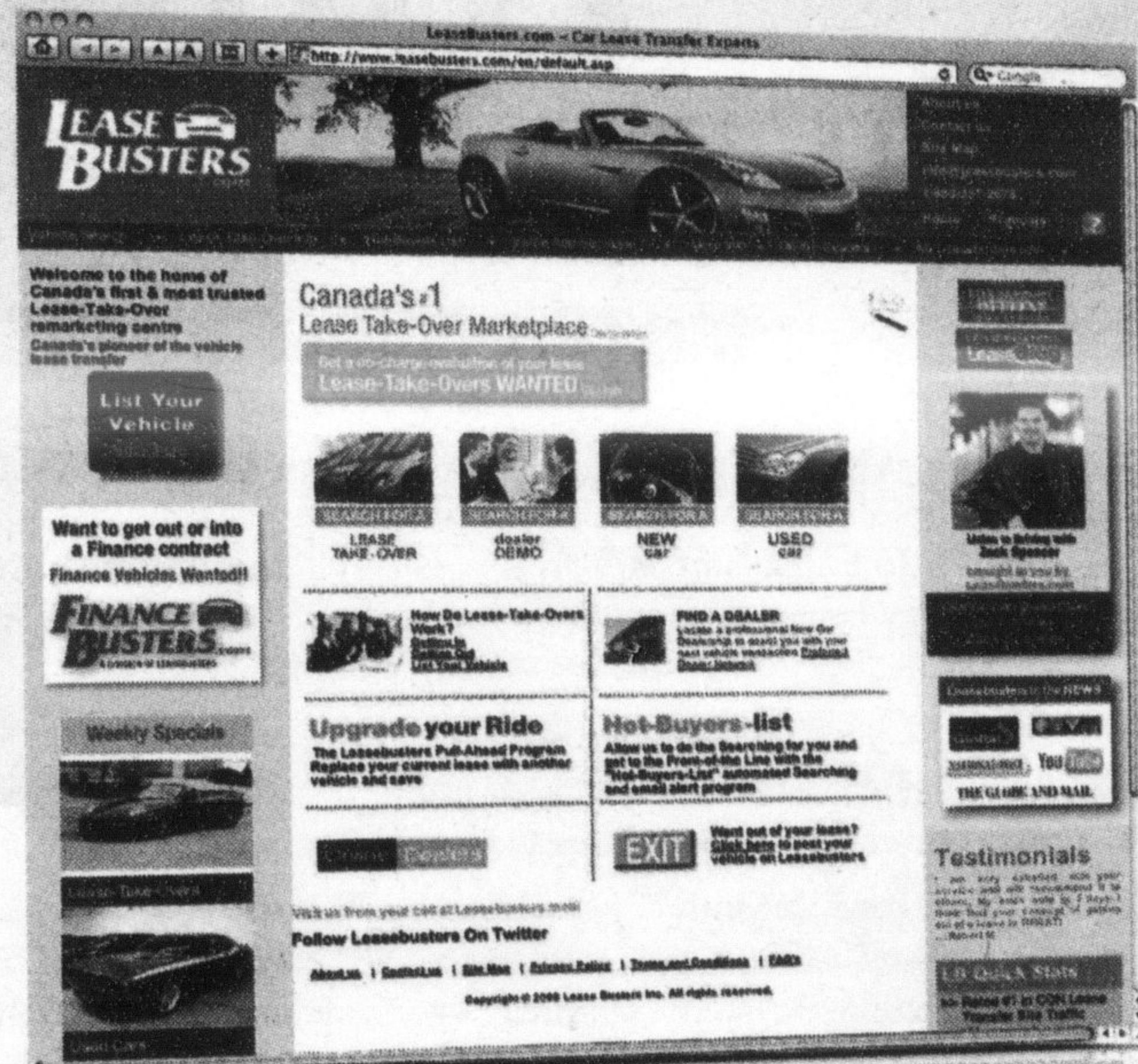
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