

Of Highhorse an lowbrow talk

For a while there Monday night it looked as if Milton municipal councillor Rick Day would be marked for slow death by the hard-line feminist crowd once news of his faux pas leaked out. Feminist representative Sharon Boase, a zealot in this movement, was positioning herself to make the hit.

Ms. Boase, a reporter from another area newspaper, has a short fuse leading to a big explosive when she senses slights against women, and she sensed one from councillor Day Monday night. In fact, you'd have to have been asleep not to notice the apparent slur (there was one guy in the audience Monday night, and he was asleep, so this is partly for his benefit).

What happened was this. A fellow named Barry Godfrey appeared before councillors asking to boldly build a donut store where no store has gone before — in an industrial area. Councillors told him no. But while musing aloud on the matter, Mr. Day said the proposed Tim Horton's franchise would provide "jobs for women during the day."

There was a nervous ripple of laughter around the room and some fretful looks. I laughed out loud, thinking, "how could you jump in it feet first like that?" Councillor Brian Penman tried to bail Mr. Day out a bit. "Women slash men," he chided. "Women," Mr. Day insisted.

Ms Boase, who had been reading about

Viewpoint

with ROB KELLY



astronaut Roberta Bondar in the *Toronto Star* and underlining the especially good parts, stopped and fixed Mr. Day with the feminist death grimace.

It was obvious almost everyone felt at least a bit ill at ease with Mr. Day's words, because the common interpretation was that he had intimidated women would jump at comparatively low-paying waitress jobs in donut stores with a kind of "Thank you, massa," attitude.

I asked him about this as soon as the meeting ended. I started off in my usual diplomatic and professional fashion by saying, "you're in deep bleep (I didn't really say bleep, but at least it rhymes)."

Mr. Day proceeded to dance out of the bleep like M.C. Hammer. He firmly denied meaning that women only were suited for such work, or any similar disparaging sentiment. "No, no, all I meant was that it's a great opportunity for middle aged ladies who are at home."

A lawyer himself, Mr. Day offered that it was unlikely he would view women as incapable be-

cause his own lawyer is a woman.

What he wanted to stress, he added, was that he welcomes employment opportunities for women who are bound to their community during the day, but who wouldn't mind making a few dollars while there.

If anyone took the comments as offensive, he offered an apology. "Sorry about that."

Unsatisfied, suspicious, still seething, Ms Boase treated me to a five-minute lecture and tirade outside once she had finished talking to the councillor. Then she climbed up on her faithful stallion Highhorse and rode off into the night, thankfully.

Later, Mr. Day said he will be more outspoken generally this term. "I'm going to go for it." Since I believe he went to the Groucho Marx School of Lecturing, I know he's going to offend various people at times.

It would help if whoever is running the committee meetings (a responsibility that rotates among councillors) steered him back on track once in a while. This didn't happen Monday, with councillor Gerry Brooks acting as chairperson.

In fact, after Mr. Day made some comment about homosexuals, Mr. Brooks told him that whatever happens to homosexuals, "you'll probably be the first to know."

Now, many of us, including me, make gay jokes. We probably shouldn't, but we do. Let's try and keep the bar talk in bars, though.

YOU NEARLY MISSED
BERG-SMA'S
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environmental assessment

All-Day Rail Service Milton GO Train Line

Public Information Centres GO Transit, the interregional public transit service owned and operated by the Province of Ontario, is carrying out an environmental assessment of all-day service for its rail line between Toronto and Milton.

The existing service operates mainly in the morning and evening peak periods, but ridership increases show that all-day service is viable on this line. GO plans to expand service by adding trains, running as frequently as once an hour, in off-peak periods and on weekends; an additional track along most of the line will have to be built for the increased service.

As part of this project, GO is also undertaking an environmental assessment for a proposed new train station and transportation gateway for this line. The existing stations are not expected to be able to meet the projected demand for service; a new station will be needed near the intersection of Highway 401 and Winston Churchill Boulevard in Mississauga.

Public information centres are being held to let you review and comment on the results of the environmental assessment to date. Representatives of GO Transit and the project's consultant will be on hand at these informal open house sessions to discuss plans, answer questions, and take your comments — detailed information on the Winston Churchill gateway station will be presented at the Mississauga open houses only. Your participation is an important part of this process, and we welcome your comments. Open houses will be held on these dates, with all sessions running from 4 to 8 p.m. and all locations wheelchair-accessible:

Etobicoke - Thursday, January 23, 1992
Islington Seniors' Centre
4968 Dundas Street West

Mississauga - Tuesday, January 28, 1992
The Great Hall
Mississauga City Hall
- Thursday, January 30, 1992
Meadowvale West Church Centre
on Meadowvale Town Centre Circle

Milton - Tuesday, February 4, 1992
Herigate Inn
161 Chisholm Drive

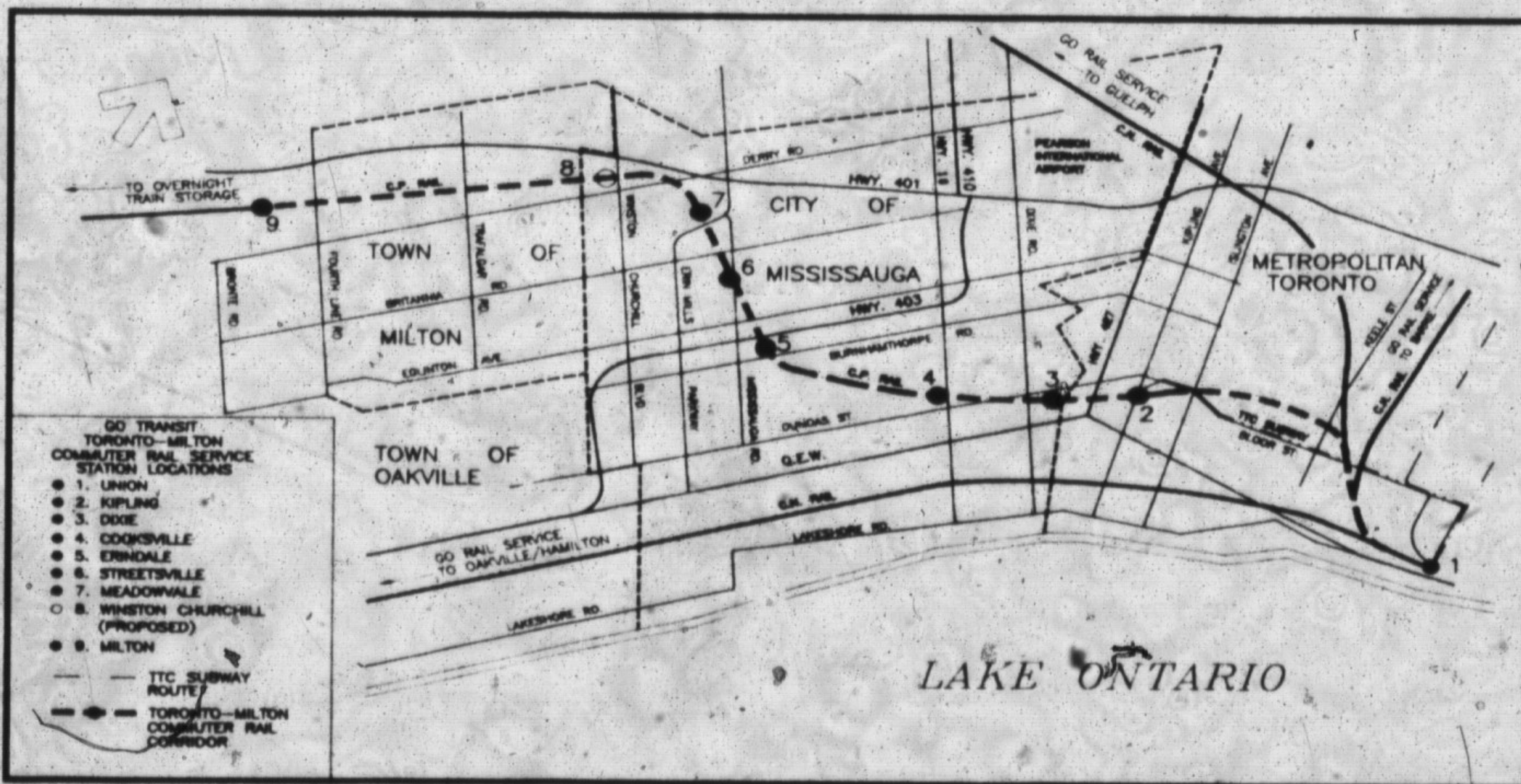
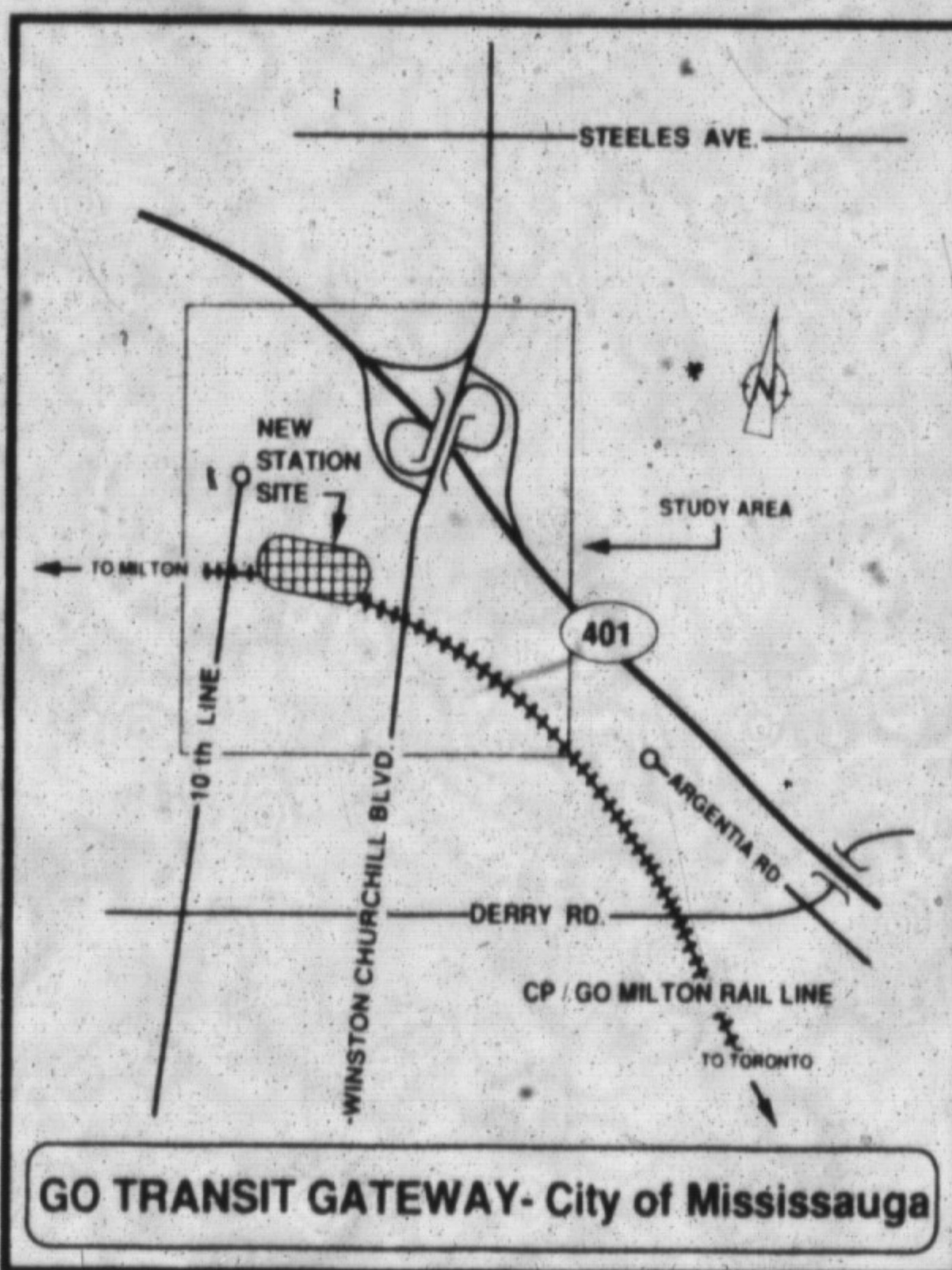
If you cannot attend these sessions but wish information about this project, please contact either the consultant or GO.

Jim Gough, Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited, 80 Commerce Valley Drive East, Scarborough, Ontario L3T 7N4. (416) 882-1100

Eric Eisen, GO Transit, 1120 Finch Avenue West, Toronto (Downsview), Ontario M3J 3J8. (416) 665-9211 ext. 432



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LAST DAY