

# New group to study gas pricing practices

A committee comprised of federal and provincial government representatives, industry personnel and consumers will study gasoline pricing by Canada's giant petroleum corporations.

Canada's consumer ministers agreed to investigate the never-ending price fluctuation of gasoline during a meeting of federal and provincial ministers earlier this month in Regina, Sask.

The group will also monitor the cost of gas at Canada's service station pumps.

The decision arrives less than a month after Ontario motorists became incensed over paying 70 cents a litre at the pumps to fill up their cars with regular gas.

*'Ontario consumers do not want to put up with the roller-coaster pricing practices which ... occur mainly on long summer weekends.'*

~ MPP David Tsubouchi

Ontario Consumer Minister David Tsubouchi, who had called on the federal government to conduct a special investigation into the matter, said he is pleased with the formation of the board, which

will be established by the federal Consumer Measures Committee.

"We look forward to the results, which should lead to a better understanding of how pricing practices are undertaken by the industry," said Tsubouchi.

"Ontario consumers do not want to put up with the roller-coaster pricing practices which seem to occur mainly on long summer weekends."

# Casinos won't be forced on towns, promises MPP

Markham MPP Dave Tsubouchi has put it in writing: charity casinos won't be forced on unwilling communities.

"Local government will have the final word," Tsubouchi, the provincial minister responsible for legal gambling, said in a letter sent to municipal governments Friday.

But, he added, the province hopes local councils will discuss the issue with charities, which stand to benefit, and with local business and tourist associations before making a decision.

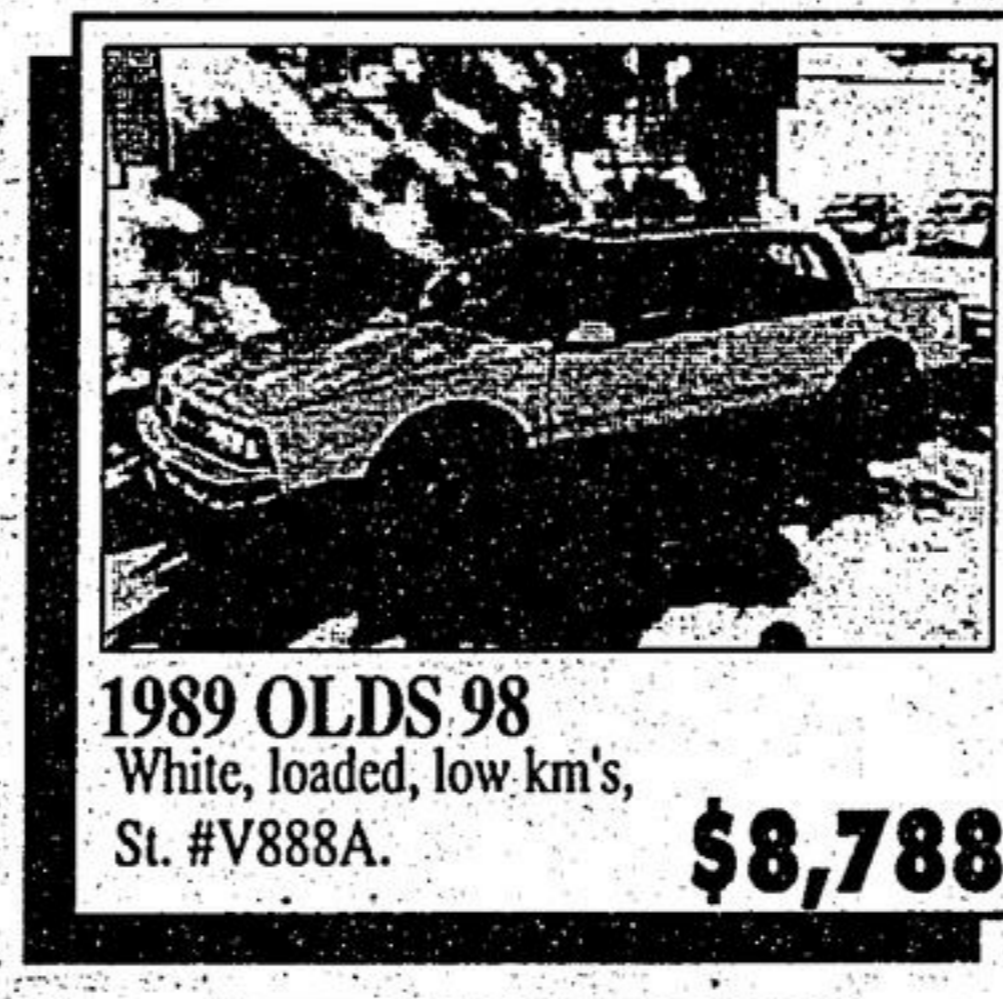
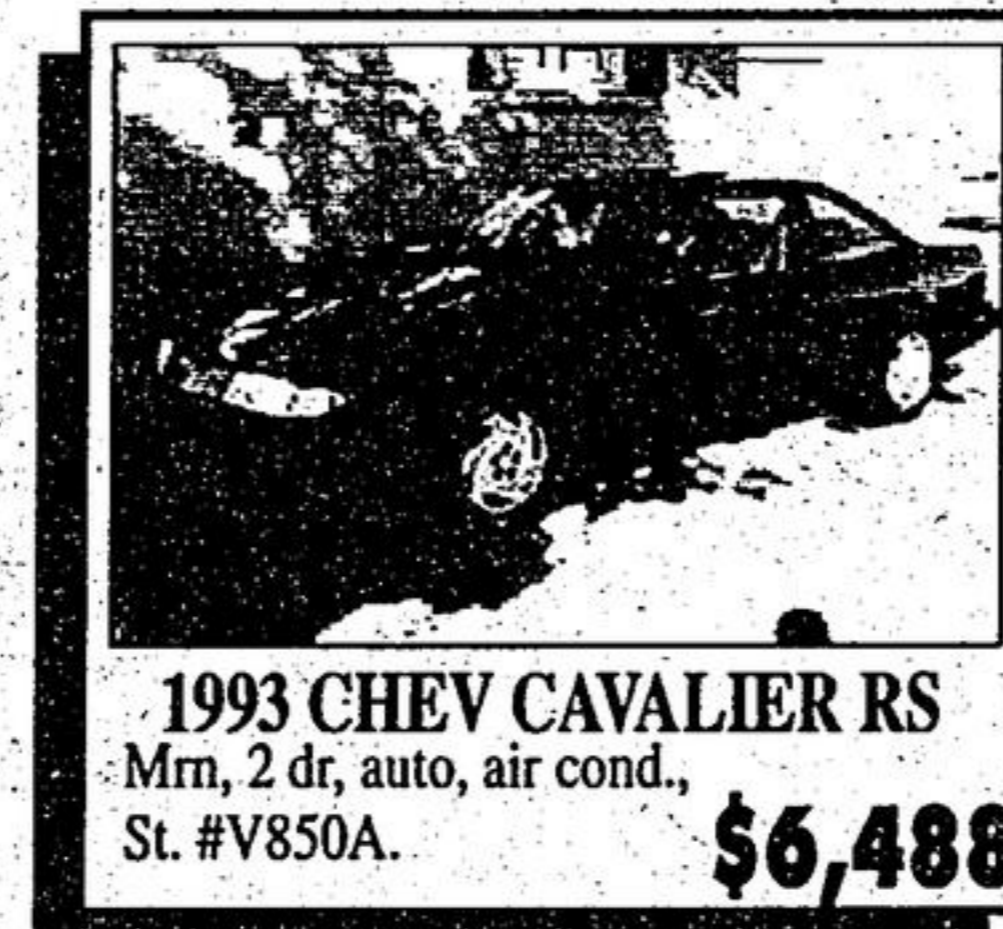
The Tory government plans to phase out

travelling Monte Carlo casinos for charity and replace them with a network of permanent gaming halls, two of them in Durham Region.

Tsubouchi chose last week to make the statement because he was responding to questioning from opposition MPPs and wanted to make sure municipalities got the message, said his communications assistant Deb McCain.

Companies offered the chance to operate clusters of casinos will be named soon, McCain said.

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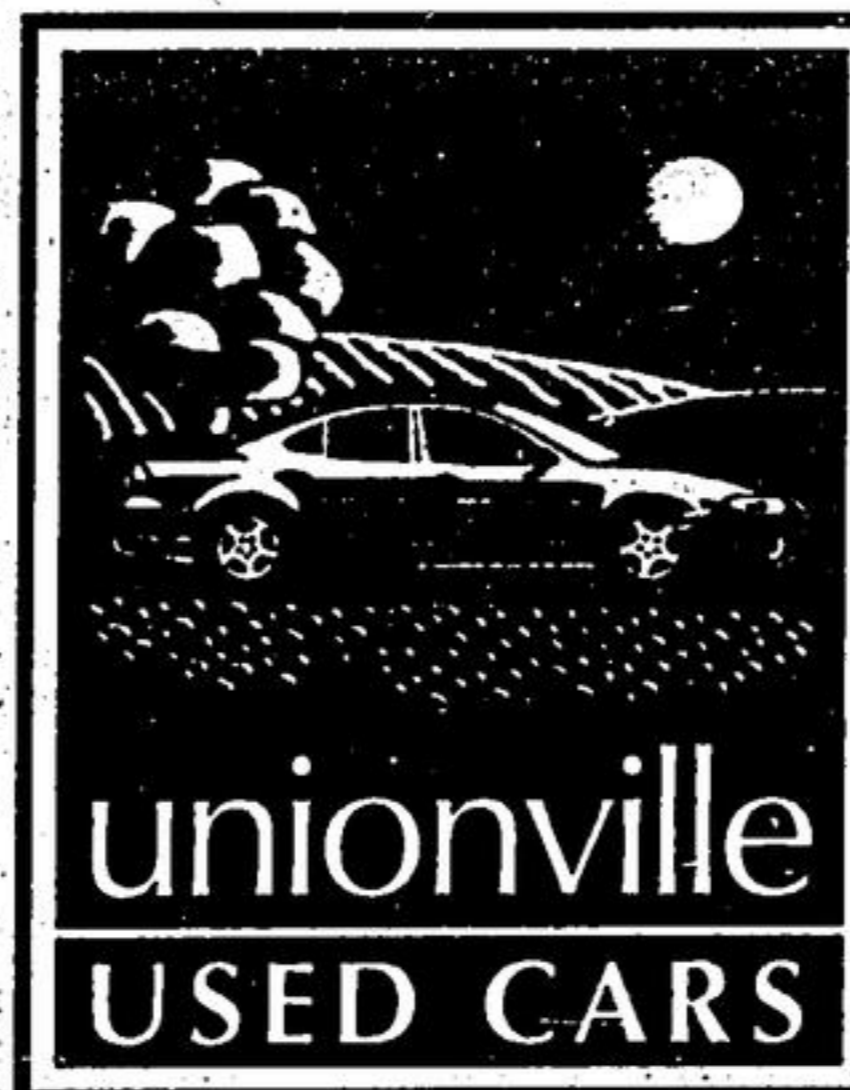
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