

It's busy season over at Goebelle MacAdam Alexander

It's April, and we all know what that means - no, not spring. Taxes. At Goebelle MacAdam Alexander Chartered Accountants on Main Street it is certainly their busy season. But with five partners and a staff of 22 people and two offices, they're ready for it. They prepare about 800 tax returns yearly.

Graeme Goebelle started his own practice in June, 1968, and through several partner changes has prospered and expanded. In 1984 he opened another office in Mississauga, and this year the firm took on two new partners, Melanie McCracken and Gordon Otley.

Goebelle MacAdam Alexander offer the usual services of C.A. firms: tax planning, accounting, systems design, business valuations, computer studies, financial planning, auditing, and business advice. They have a large office, about 4,000 sq.ft. in one of the deceptively small-looking buildings on Main Street.

Clients include a number of businesses and charitable organizations, such as the United Way of Halton Hills, North Halton Hospice, North Halton Literacy Guild, and the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped, to name only a few. These organizations are charged only a nominal fee for auditing. The firm audits the books of the Town of Halton Hills, as well as a variety of professional, industrial, wholesale, and retail businesses.

"We have over 200 corporate clients in all phases of business," Graeme Goebelle explains. They are now offering an additional service - Codatas does bookkeeping and provides "computation on location" - it is a mobile accounting service. They will come to you to prepare your books. This kind of service "provides third person credibility for bank loans for smaller firms. We prepare a financial statement for them."

Aside from business concerns, the firm is very involved in volunteering and public service. "We believe when you make a living in a community you should give back to the community," Mr. Goebelle states. This takes a variety of forms. All staff are encouraged to participate in community organizations. Mr. Goebelle himself is the vice-chairman of the hospital board, a position he has occupied for a year now.

Another aspect of this is the firm's scholarship accounting awards at the Georgetown District High School. There is one at each grade level from 10 to 13. They have hired some of the winners. Additionally, they are employing eight students in accounting co-op programs from Waterloo, Wilfrid-Laurier, and Brock universities. There is a policy of hiring local residents.

Melanie McCracken, the first female partner, has lived in Georgetown for 18 years. A

graduate of the local high school, she went on to do a B.Sc. in Kinesiology at the University of Waterloo. The next year she returned to the university and studied Chartered Accountancy, earning her Chartered Accountant designation in 1984. Melanie started with the company in 1981 and did her training there.

Melanie is now working toward her Chartered Business Valuator designation. She is currently vice-president elect of the Kiwanis Club, and on the organizing committee for the Big Chill dance. She plays basketball, flag football, tennis, and golf.

What's it like to be the first female partner? "No different from being an employee, really, except there's more recognition," says Melanie. Although women are outnumbering men in the university programs, the accounting profession "still has a male dominated image. Men usually come in and want men to do their books," she says. Do the women ask specifically for a woman? "No."

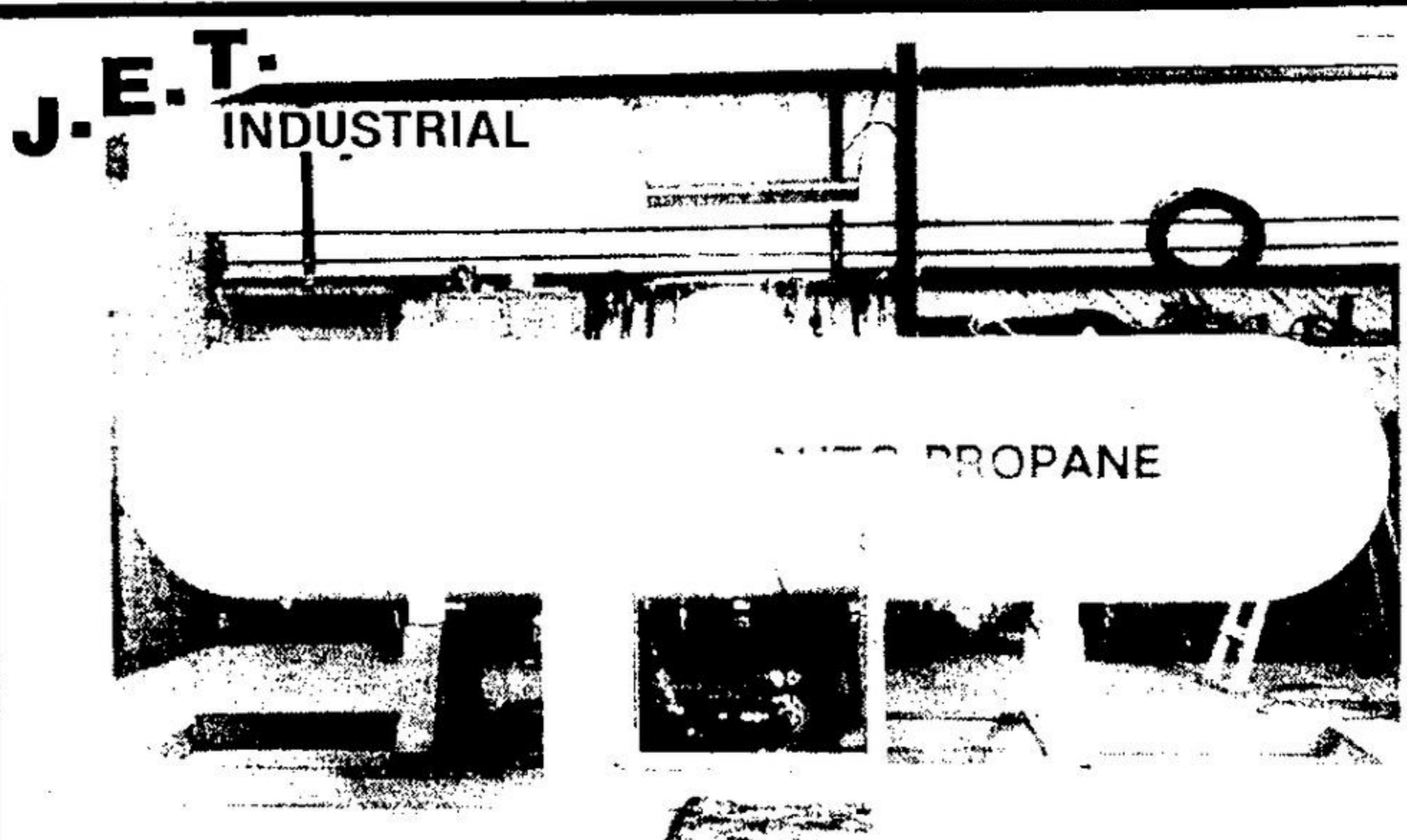
Allan Lam has recently been hired by the firm as a manager. He has only lived in Georgetown for seven months, but he loves it. He did a Bachelor of Commerce degree at Carleton University before becoming a C.A. He worked at Northern Telecom in Toronto before joining the firm.

"I find working for a small firm is more rewarding. I like to deal with small businesses, deal directly with the owners." He has emphasized computer application for small business in his training. Despite his short period of residency, Allan is already involved in the community; he is the treasurer of the Halton Hills Cancer Society. He also plays squash, cycles, and plays tennis.

Partner Brian MacAdam is the tax specialist in the organization. He became a partner in 1977, after a stint with Price Waterhouse. He didn't find the transition from the large organization of Price Waterhouse to the smaller firm difficult: "The type of work is the same, and we do have a broad diversity of clients, including some international ones. We audit some multinational corporations." After 10 years as a Georgetown resident, Mr. MacAdam and his family have recently moved to Brampton, where his wife is a teacher.

Brian is the director and vice-president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, and the president of the Kiwanis Club. His hobbies include squash, fishing, boating, and wine-making.

Goebelle MacAdam Alexander offer a diversity of backgrounds and specializations to cater to every need. They are proud of their participation in the community and do their best to promote education and hire local students. They have clients from all over the area, and believe the higher growth in town will be a boon to their business.




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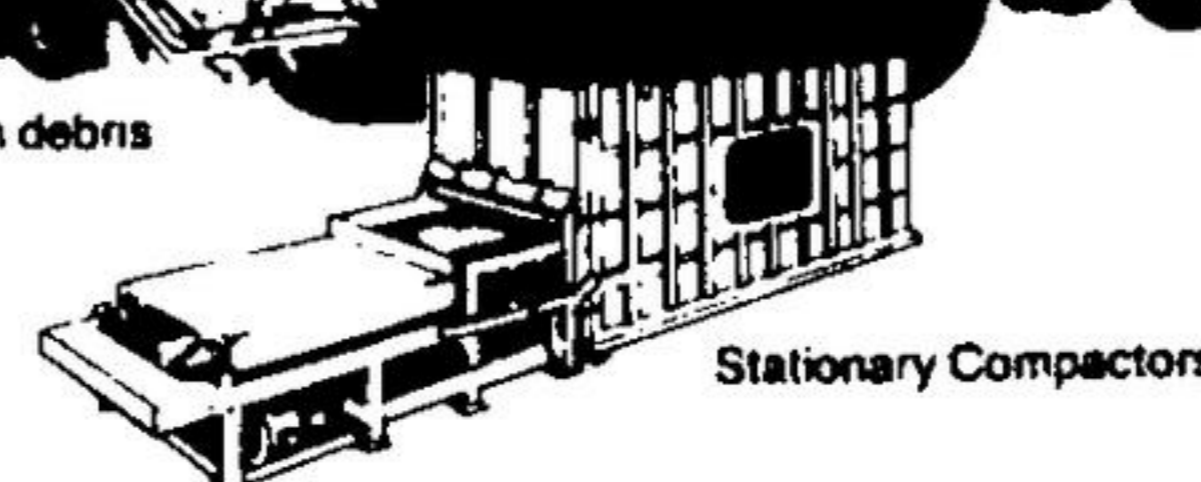
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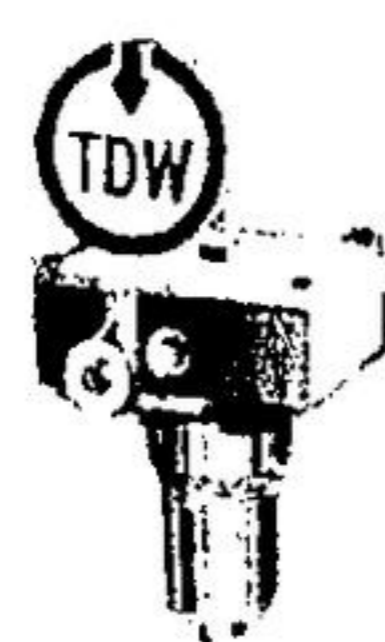
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