

Gary Carr house hunting in Milton

The practicalities of life after the election

By DONNA DANIELLI

Although he was the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Oakville for thirteen years, it was one very bold move in 2003 on Gary Carr's part that brought him to the attention of Prime Minister Paul Martin. A Progressive Conservative party member, Carr was serving as the Speaker of the House when he cited then Premier Ernie Eves for contempt following the release of the province's budget outside of the House, in the Magna plant. That was when his phone began to ring. "Paul called me at that time to comment on what I'd done," explains Carr. "I had always been a big fan of his when he was the Finance Minister, so it was really great to hear from him." That moment sparked a dialogue between the two politicians that eventually saw the Prime Minister asking Carr to represent the Liberal Party in Halton in June's election. Carr switched his allegiance to the Liberals and won the election by almost fifty percent of the vote.

"I'm just pleased to be the Member of Parliament for Halton and working on behalf of the people of the riding," says Carr, who isn't intimidated by the prospect of making the switch from MPP to MP. "The two jobs are really very similar in some ways and different in others," he points out. "Some of the issues remain the same in both levels of government. What I'm really looking forward to is the opportunity to meet people and discuss issues." The Prime Minister's Cabinet has been announced, and he is very supportive of the choices made by the Prime Minister, even though he wasn't named as a Cabinet Minister himself.

"The Prime Minister had a lot of veteran MP's to chose from, with a great deal of experience," Carr explains matter of factly. "Not having a place in the Cabinet will allow me to spend more time with my

constituents, learning their issues and attending special events." He was thrilled to be included in Milton's Canada Day celebrations the week after the election, and looks forward to many more such events.

Equally thrilling for him was the invitation, after the caucus meeting, to the Prime Minister's cottage at Harrington Lake. "It was a really wonderful chance to meet everyone in an informal setting and it was great

"NOT HAVING A PLACE IN THE CABINET WILL ALLOW ME TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH MY CONSTITUENTS"

because he had also invited all of the members who had either lost their seats or retired," says Carr. "It was a chance to say hello to the new faces and good bye to the old." That sort of gesture though, is something that he says is typical of his new boss, Paul Martin. "He's been very nice, very warm and down to earth," pronounces Carr. "Everyone calls him Paul, he has a very relaxed style."

For now, Carr is scrambling to set up not only new offices in Halton and Ottawa, but new residences as well. He has taken over the office used by his predecessor Julian Reed at 14 Martin Street in Milton and is currently searching for a new home in the area for himself, wife Teresa and daughters Lindsay and Mackenzie. His son Gavin will visit the new home when he can as he attends the University of British Columbia. "That's my task for August, to find a place to live," laughs Carr who jokes that it was Milton Mayor Gord Krantz who convinced him to focus his search around Milton. "My work as an MP means that I already know all of the area mayors and most of

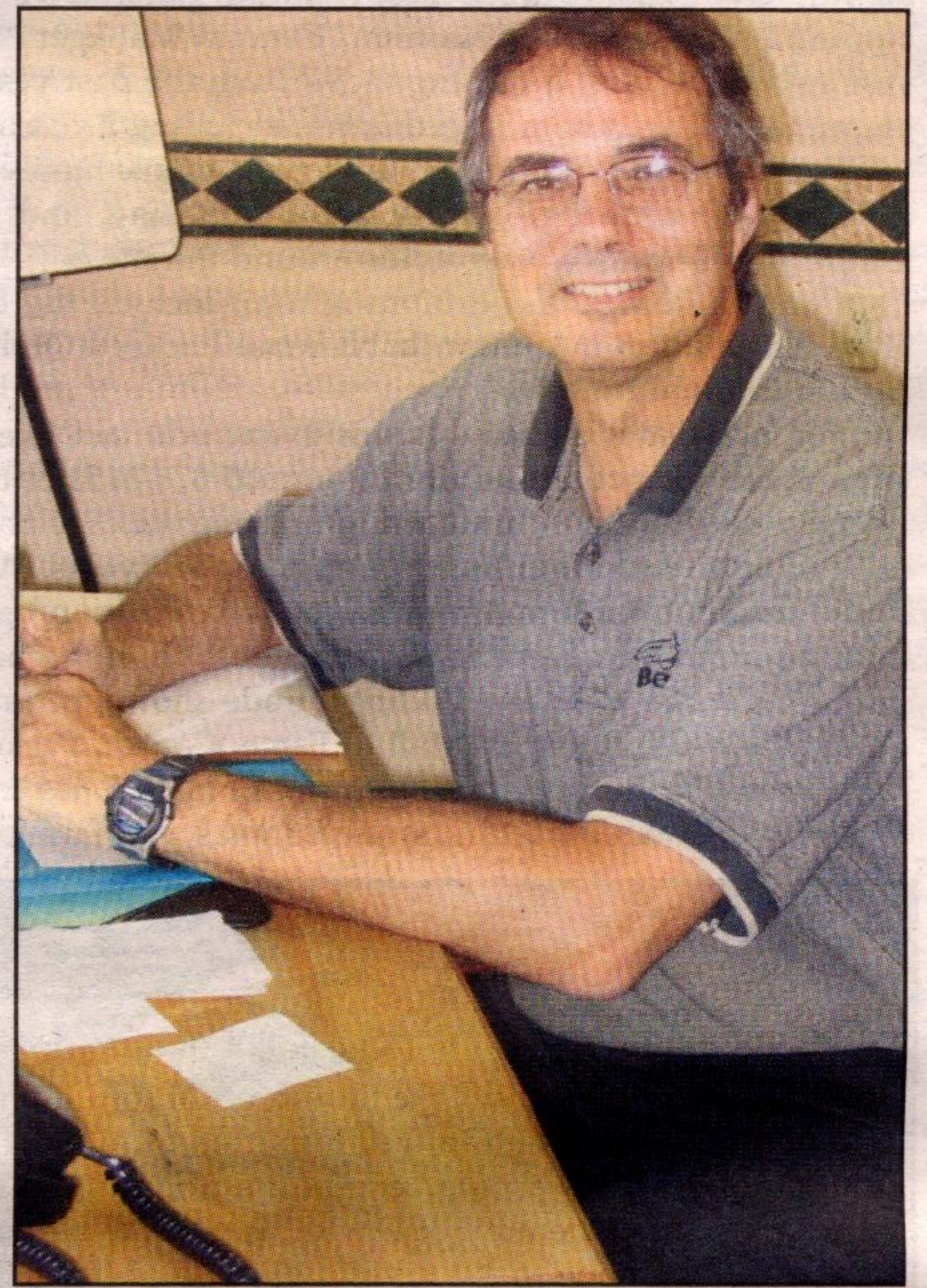


PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

Gary Carr settling into his office at 14 Martin St., Milton, premises that he has taken over from his predecessor, Julian Reed.

the councilors," says Carr. "That is really going to be helpful."

Audrey Meredith Dance Centre celebrates 30th Anniversary

Audrey Meredith Dance Centre opened their studio door in September 1974. The first dance studio in Milton operated in a tiny space across from the Roxy Movie Theatre. At that time, Audrey Meredith owned 2 other studios in the Mississauga and Toronto area. Upon moving to Milton, Meredith saw there was an opportunity to bring dance and entertainment to the expanding town.

The studio re-located to a bigger facility, including a dance wear store, further down the street - what is now the Milton Bible College. All students remember the purple door in the alley that opened to a world of dance, music, creativity and most of all fun! Audrey Meredith Dance Centre moved to the Leisure Centre in 1995 before changing ownership in 1999.

Meredith ran the studio with her three daughters, Vicki Jesch, Joyce Jesch-Sanderson and Kim Belvedere. All four women are certified with the Canadian Dance Teachers Association (CDTA) and Dance Masters of America (DMA). The daughters worked in the store, taught dancing and performed in a professional dance troupe - the AM/FM Rockettes.

Meredith and her studio were seen all over town with their community involvement. Dancers performed at the

Milton Hospital, Allendale Senior Centre, Canada Day Celebrations, Moonlight Magic and the Santa Claus Parade. Meredith was on the Arts Committee, now Arts Milton, and won Business Woman of the Year in 1984. Meredith says "I can't believe it's been 30 years. I have enjoyed seeing former students progress in the arts industry, go on to careers all-over the world, teach children of past students and now seeing my grand daughter Brooke dance herself. When you embark on a career such as this, you not only create a business but a family as well".

In 1994 Meredith retired from all three studios and went on to become an examiner with the CDTA. Belvedere has since taught in Milton and Mississauga for former student Nicola Saclamadis, Director with the Dance PAC. Belvedere is on the brink of a second season with former student and partner Christine Houle, in their new business venture Milton Youth Theatre Productions, Milton's first youth theatre company. Belvedere says "It's amazing to have been a part of Milton for the past 30 years. I enjoy running into former students and reminiscing the great times we had at the studio. The reunion is going to be filled with a lot of students, friends, memories and laughs".

The reunion is being held at the

Milton Fairgrounds, Thursday August 12th at 7:30 PM. Students are encouraged to bring their photos, costumes or

videos from the past.

For more information please contact Kim Belvedere at 905-875-7674

**20% off all
Summer
Merchandise**

Agent
for
Freeman
Formal
Wear

FREEMAN
FORMALWEAR

Mathers

MEN'S WEAR

O/B DANTE OF MILTON

**260 MAIN ST. EAST, MILTON
905-878-5397**