

Chronicles of life written with local slant

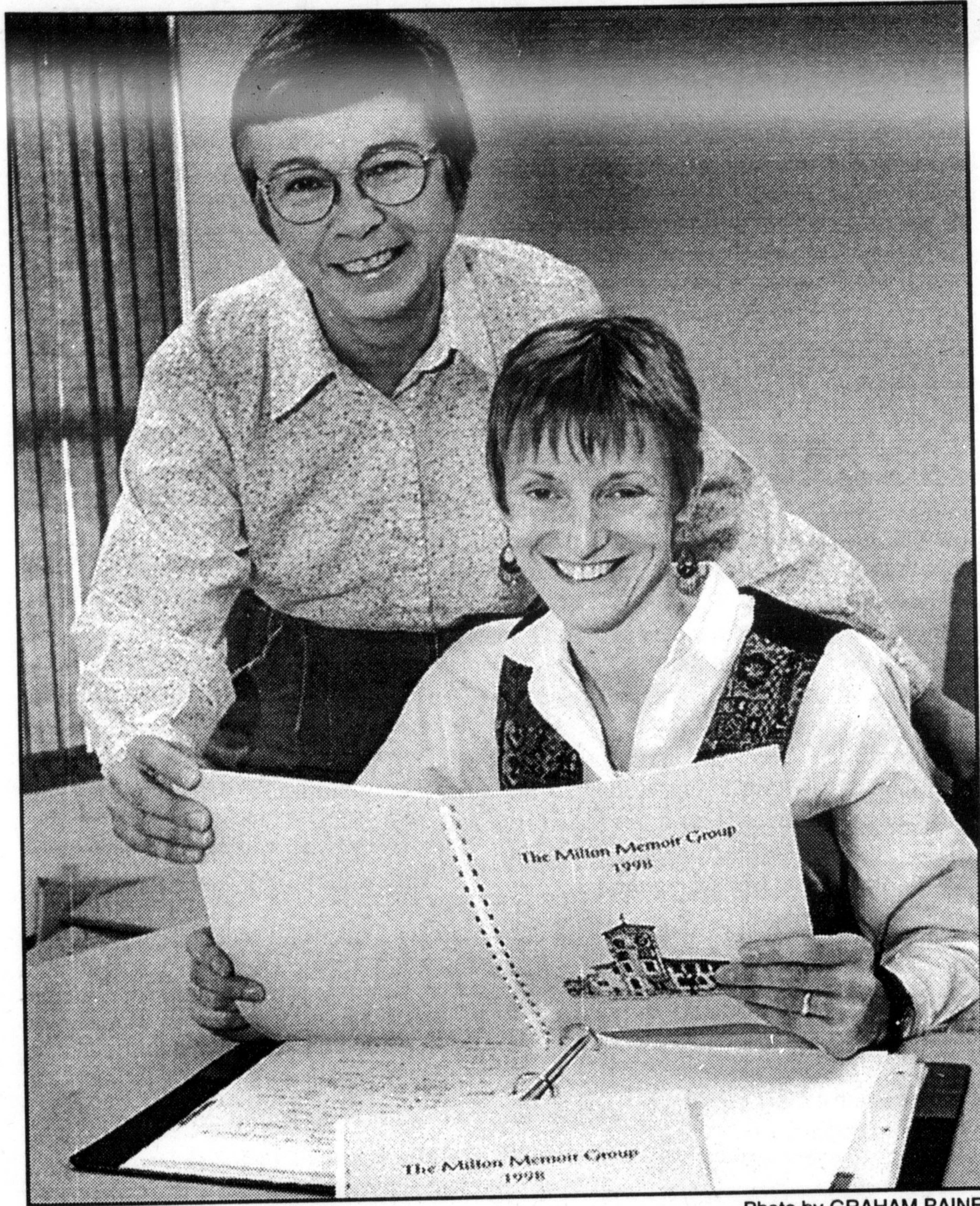


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Ruth Taylor (left) and Nora Savage display a copy of 'Milton Memoir Group - 1998', a recently-released publication containing stories, poems and historic accounts by local seniors.

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

Miltonians can read about a local man's trek across the Sinai Desert during wartime or about live chickens in an urban kitchen in the Milton Memoir Group's first publication.

Members of the creative writing group, who have met at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre once a week for the last two years, chose their favourite personal stories and poems and put them together in a booklet.

About 70 copies of 'Milton Memoir Group — 1998', a reflection on the lives of the writers and their communities, have already been sold, said teacher Nora Savage.

Also a professional storyteller, Ms Savage leads the group of six to eight people, teaching them techniques for sharing their stories on paper.

"The biggest hang up is the actual writing and the hurdle is what to write about," she said.

Writing memoirs leaves "a lovely window of another time" for family members, said Milton's Ruth Taylor, who joined the group for that purpose.

Ms Taylor said she has enjoyed reading her ancestors' memoirs and believes her descendants will find "our time" interesting too.

And there's a lot to learn about your community and people through the writings, added Ed Goodall, who joined the group in the beginning to help get it going and then couldn't stay away.

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