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New staff will be hired to grapple with the boom

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

The Town has kicked off an anticipated development blitz in Milton by moving to swell its staff.

Help wanted ads for seven new middle management type positions have appeared recently in newspapers such as The Toronto Star and The Hamilton Spectator.

The hiring spree is expected to help the Town cope with a development boom that is apt to inflate Milton's population to nearly triple its current size.

That, combined with a recent internal organizational review, has led to the biggest one-time growth spurt in at least the last 15 years, said acting Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Jim McQueen.

CAO Mario Belvedere is currently on vacation. But the tax bite from the staff surge will likely be minimal, said Mr. McQueen.

That's because not all of the new positions will be financed by ratepayers.

Of the seven openings, two are filling current vacancies.



Jim McQueen

A third position will not bloat the Town's overall 100-strong staff complement due to corporate reorganization.

And three development related positions will largely be paid for out of development fees, said Mr. McQueen.

Also, a marketing position aimed at aggressively selling town facilities and programs should pay for itself through an increase in user fees, he said.

But there could be a lag between the positions being filled and the money from user fees and development charges rolling in, noted Mr. McQueen.

"You can't time everything exactly from when development agreements are coming in and people are in place," he said.

The new positions highlight a swing from the theoretical growth planning of the past to active development in the future.

A capital development analyst will be hired to oversee all development related financial work.

A development engineer will work with growth issues such as storm management and transportation.

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**THE CORPORATION OF
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Due to the warm weather Rotary Park Pool will be extending its public swim hours throughout the month of August.

In addition to the regularly scheduled swims at 1:30 - 4:30 each day, the pool will also remain open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm, weather permitting.

For further information please contact:

**The Milton Leisure Centre
at 878-7946
or Rotary Park Pool
at 878-3292**

Caught between the bylaws

• from MIXED on page 3

complaints, he said.

Of the remaining five complainants, one has since moved away.

"The complaints are coming from further down the street, in some cases where they can't see my property," said Dr. McPhail.

Near the same time, further investigation by the Town had sorted out the confusion over the dueling bylaws.

The research revealed that when the two bylaws are in conflict, the sign bylaw takes precedence.

In other words, the one square metre ruling had been right all along.

But a sign variance was still necessary if Dr. McPhail wanted to erect his two-sided placard.

So staff tried to make the best of less than ideal circumstances, said Mr. DeVries.

"We tried to find out if there was some kind of compromise with the sign," he said.

That meant sitting down with Dr. McPhail and his neighbours, trying to hammer out an agreement with which everyone could live.

In the end, the neighbors held fast. They didn't want anything larger than the bylaw permitted, said Mr. DeVries.

"I think staff went out of their way to take maybe a bad situation and make it better," he said. "We try to facilitate both sides if we can."

But Dr. McPhail said it still rankles that the Town has not acknowledged its error.

"The Town has never sent a letter saying they screwed up," he said.

They also didn't mention that he had the option of appealing council's decision at the OMB, said Dr. McPhail.

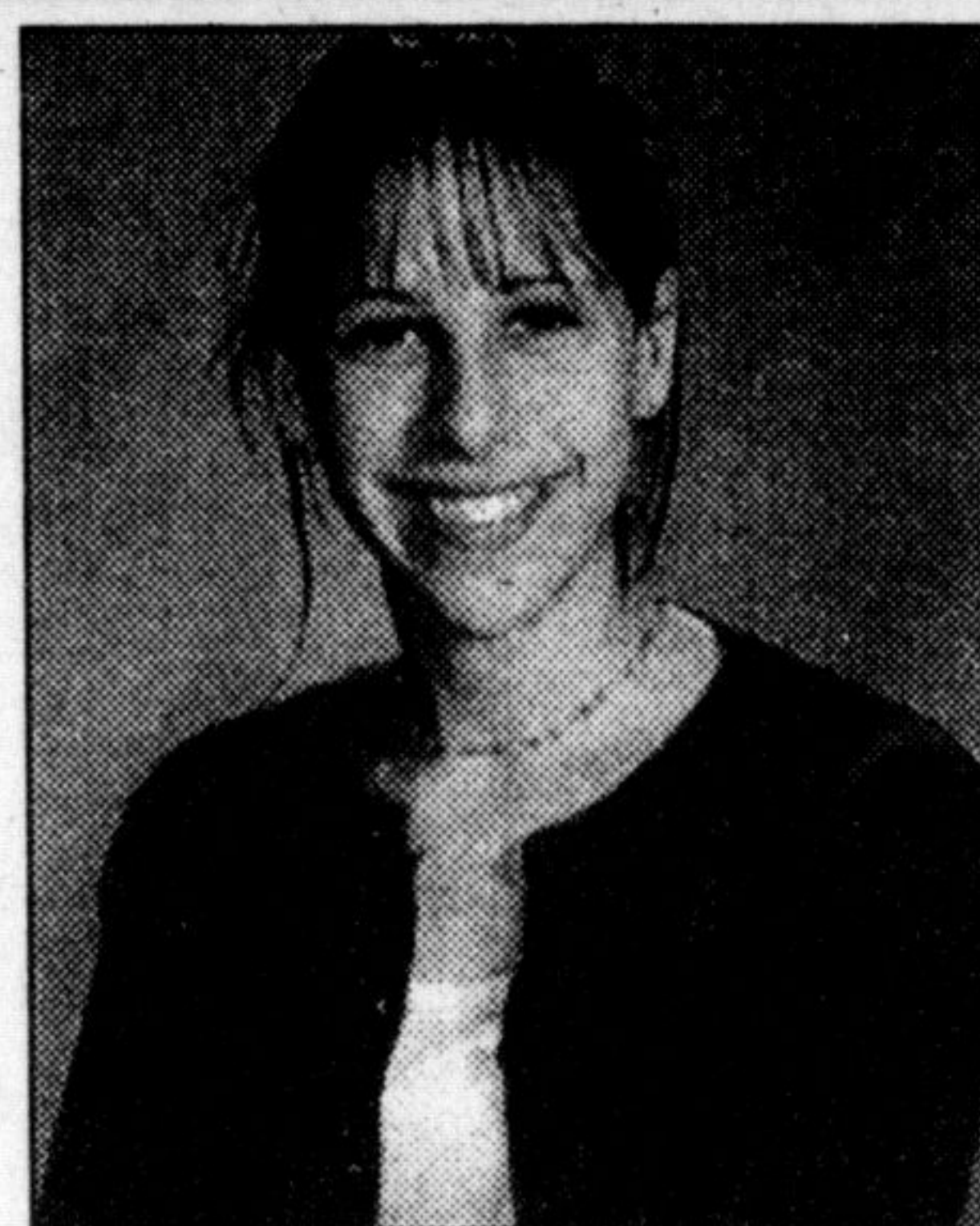
He gleaned that information from his lawyer.

But Dr. McPhail was not treated poorly by the Town, said Mr. DeVries.

"I think we tried to do our best for everyone," he said.

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I give my parents half of what I earn to put away in mutual funds for me, and I spend the rest of it on different things.

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