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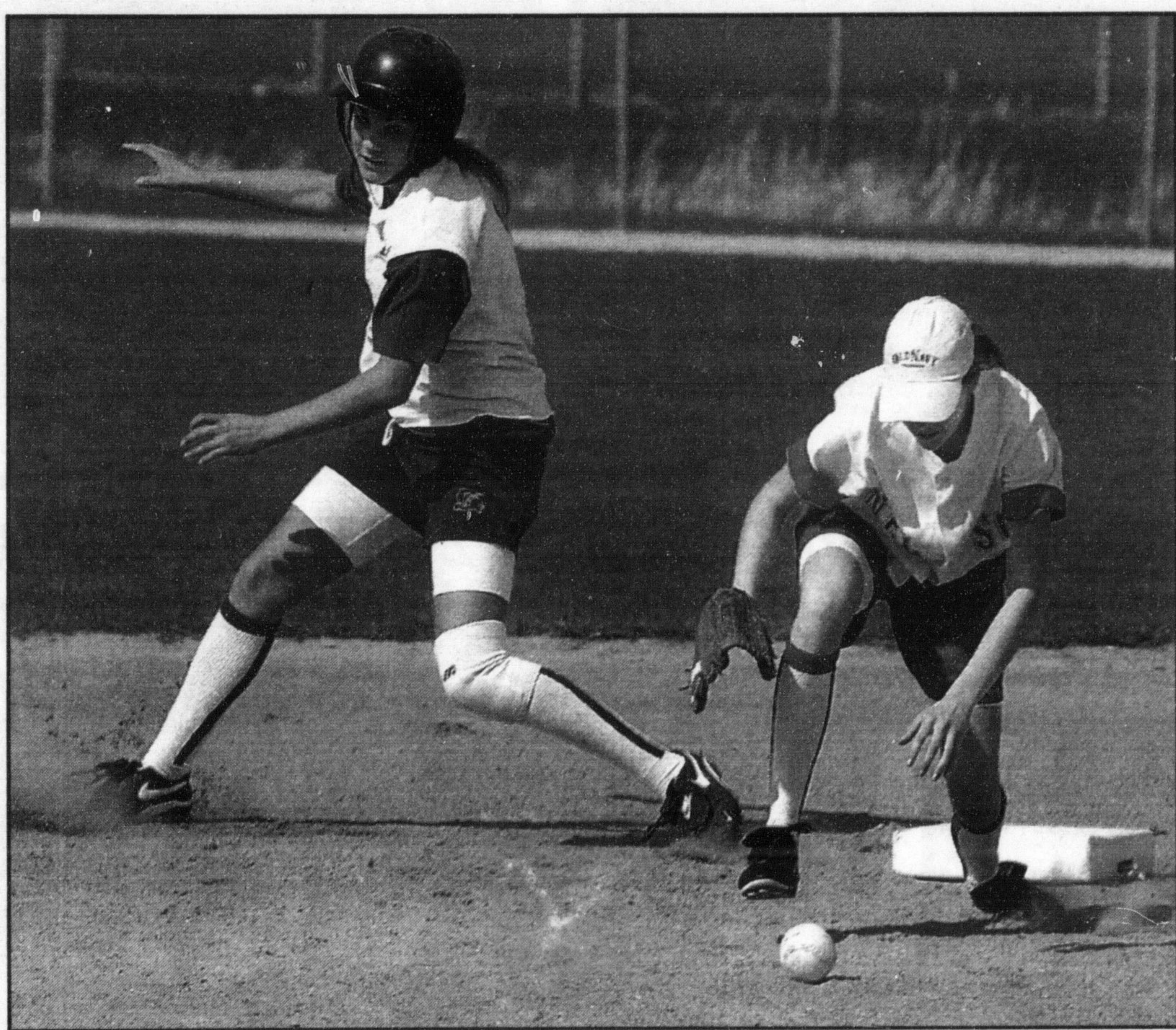


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Safe at second

E.C. Drury's Marion Jamieson steals second base as this Nelson infielder bobbles the soft-ball in season-opening play at Lions Sport Park Thursday. Drury won the game 17-0. For full results, see sports on page 21.

New group tackles town's affordable housing problem

By LINDSAY BRUCE
Special to The Champion

Many Milton residents are in desperate need of new affordable housing options.

So the Milton Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC) was formed a month ago by people willing to tackle the issue.

The MAHC defines affordable housing as housing for which a family would spend no more than 30 per cent of its gross income.

Group member Laurie Good of the Salvation Army said there's nowhere in town for people seeking low-cost housing to go.

"It is just a mess. There is nothing available. Unfortunately I advise people to leave Milton if they're looking for affordable housing. If you can't afford \$1,000 per month in rent, then forget about it," said Ms Good.

Mary MacDonald, a single mother of two, joined the group because she knew first hand how difficult it is to find affordable housing in town.

She said one of the biggest problems is that after rent payments, there isn't much money left over for other necessities.

"Hopefully, I'll get on my feet. I spent last week at my parent's house because I didn't have any food," said Ms MacDonald.

Ms Good said one of the groups affected by the lack of housing are those who come from out of town to attend the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf.

"A lot of times they don't even get social services help. They're on disability, but it's very minimal," said Ms Good.

The Salvation Army is able to help struggling families by donating food, but unless new affordable housing options are

"If you can't afford \$1,000 per month in rent, then forget about it."

Laurie Good

addressed, the situation will only get worse.

Jackie Hoerd, a representative of Knox Presbyterian Church, said eventually MAHC will seek help from the government, but for now members are determined to inform the public to get more support on board.

"The government isn't going to do anything unless there is public pressure, and there can't be pressure until there is awareness," said Ms Hoerd.

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TUESDAY INSERTS
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• Business Depot • Home Depot*
• First Choice Auto Clean*
• Lansing* • White Rose*
• Future Shop*
*Selected areas only

Need help with odd jobs?

Need a little help with your spring cleaning?

For the ninth year in a row, Miltonians of all ages will help their neighbours as part of Good Neighbours Community Day Saturday.

Community Day is recognized as the day to clean up parks, streams,

roadsides and other shared community spaces.

Household tasks are also performed by volunteers on behalf of senior citizens or those physically unable to perform their own cleaning tasks without the assistance of others.

Tasks range from cleaning win-

dows, raking and clean up of yards and general cleaning.

The tasks are done in seniors' apartment complexes and on rural streets.

If you could use some help, contact Good Neighbours Community Day organizers by calling 875-4636.

PROTECT YOUR PET FROM HEARTWORM & FLEAS

Heartworm is the most serious of all the worm parasites. They can affect any dog and more recently cats. Each year heartworm disease threatens dogs and cats with death or permanent disability. Heartworms usually do not cause any outward signs until the disease is advanced. They can grow to a length of 15-30cm and be hundreds in numbers living on nutrients which they steal from your dog or cats bloodstream as well as causing irreversible damage to your pets internal organs. Heartworm disease is transmitted by mosquitoes, when a dog or cat already infected with heartworm is bitten, the mosquito takes up the immature (baby) worms called microfilariae with its blood meal. The worms grow into infective larvae and are transmitted to other dogs and cats by the mosquito when it feeds again. Once in your pets body the larvae travel to the heart and lungs where they mature and produce new microfilariae. One infected dog (including foxes and coyotes) can easily become a source of infection for an entire area or neighbourhood and every dog and cat exposed to the infective mosquitoes are at risk.

You can protect you dog or cat from this serious health threat by implementing a heartworm prevention program. This involves a simple blood test prior to starting a monthly medication given June first to November.

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