

Youths crying out for more facilities in Milton: survey

By **FANNIE SUNSHINE**
The Champion

Milton would be a more desirable place for youths if a wider range of recreational activities were available, town councillors heard.

That was the main finding of a survey conducted by the Milton Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee (MMYAC). The survey results were presented to town council Monday night.

"The goals of the survey was to determine the recreational needs of Milton youth and to identify aids and barriers to youth participation in recreational activities," said MMYAC member Sarah Williams.

The survey, distributed last year

to local schools, asked youths how to describe the town, what they do during the week/weekends and what social activities were lacking in the town.

"Forty-two per cent (of those surveyed) found Milton boring and 8 per cent found Milton fun or awesome," said MMYAC member Teri Parker. "Sixty-three per cent go to a friend's house during the week and 51 per cent study. On the weekends, 70 per cent go to a friend's house and 35 per cent participate in sports. It's also important to note 34 per cent of the respondents rated drinking as one of their top five activities on the weekends."

It was also noted 90 per cent of youths leave town on weekends

and 79 per cent of those who leave do so because of a lack of activities in town.

"Some social/recreational activities Milton youth want are a movie theatre, a bowling alley and an all-ages club," said MMYAC member Kaitlin Strome. "Other areas of interest include a coffee house, biking trails, sports events and an indoor/outdoor skating rink."

MMYAC made recommendations to council that included youths being consulted in the use of facilities to make Milton more exciting for young people and marketing youth programs and events to the community.

"I wish more youth in town would take this leadership," said Councillor Ron Furik.

Correction


In a story published last Friday regarding a new physician coming to Milton District Hospital (MDH), incorrect information was reported.

Dr. M. Kamouna intends to open his practice at MDH in the spring of 2001, not 2002.

And the new medical building at 311 Commercial St. is to be completed in the fall of 2001, not 2002.

The Champion apologizes for the errors and any inconvenience they may have caused.

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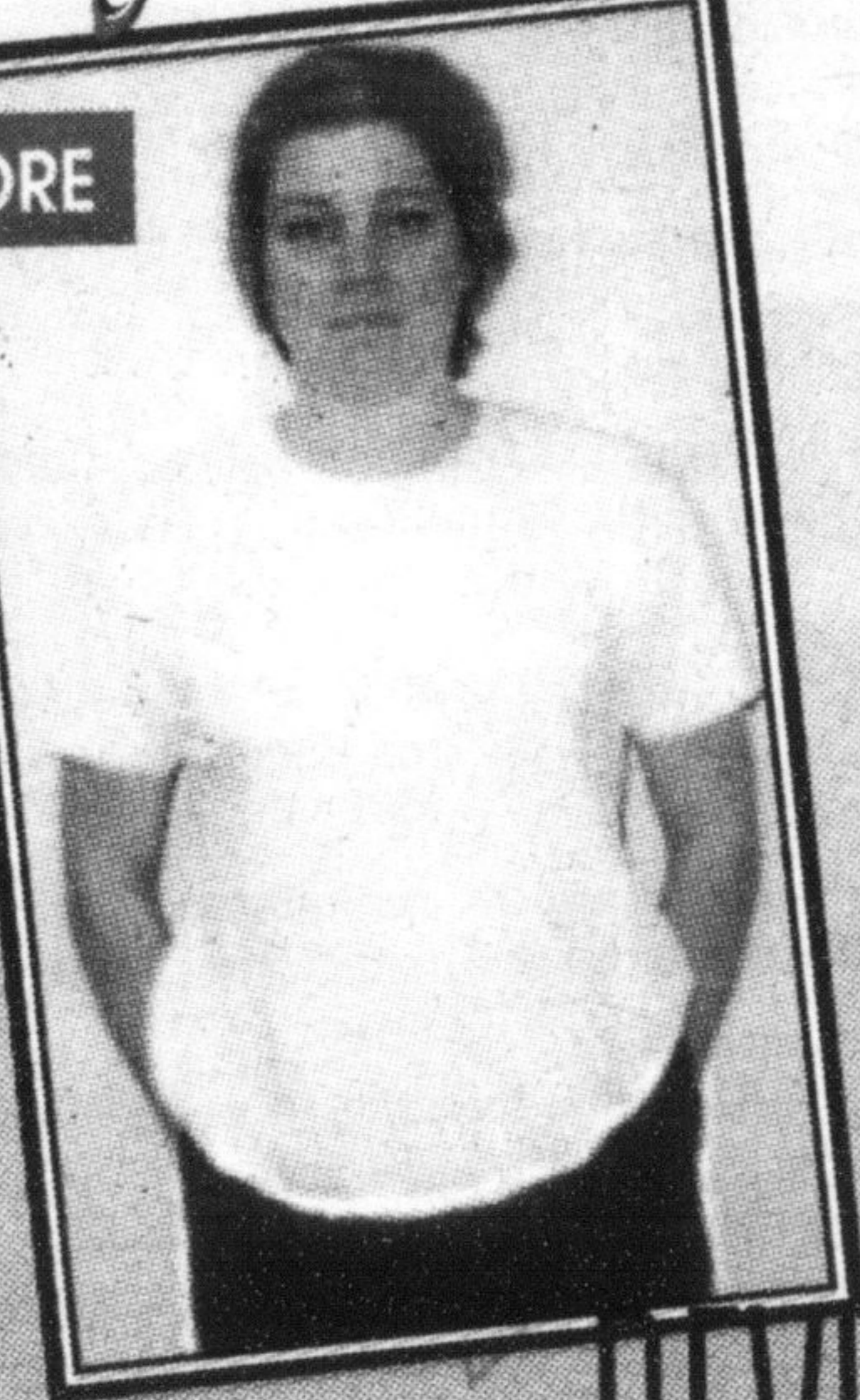
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