

Horticulture trade is booming, but lacks people

By RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion

The landscaping and horticulture industry is booming, but can only grow if the labour force expands with it, says a Landscape Ontario official.

"We cannot find enough people to work in the trade. It's actually a limiting factor of horticulture," Executive Director Tony DiGiovanni said at a press conference Thursday. "We're in a trade deficit that touches everybody."

Since 1998, the horticulture industry has seen 10 per cent growth each year, with the exception of last year, which saw a 14 per cent jump.

The growth in hobbyist interests are blatantly apparent with the success of recent horticulture showcases and the creation of the Home and Garden Television (HGTV) channel, commented

Mr. DiGiovanni.

Horticulture products have also surpassed corn, wheat and soybeans to become the number one agriculture-related item produced in Canada, he added.

"The reason for the popularity is the demographic of the 'boom' generation. As we all get older, we put aside our tennis rackets and we start gardening — trying to create little paradises in our backyards," the director said. "We're riding that demographic wave."

However, if the industry is going to continue along the path of expansion, more labour is needed, he continued.

In an effort to promote horticulture as a career option for youth, Landscape Ontario is involved in numerous high school education programs and offers tours of its 50-acre facility on Fifth Line.

The organization is also in discussion

with Humber College to create a satellite campus for horticulture studies, in addition to existing apprenticeship programs.

"Our dream is to have a full-time school on the site here," said Mr. DiGiovanni. "Horticulture is one of those trades where there's something for everybody, including kids."

Common misconceptions about pesticide use are also casting a shadow on the industry, Mr. DiGiovanni said.

"Less than 2 per cent (of pesticides) is used on ornamental horticulture and of that 2 per cent, 90 per cent of what's used is 2,4-D (a chemical compound), which is a herbicide," he explained, referring to some activists claiming DDT is commonly used. "If a municipality is going to look at this properly and look at the health impacts, they should be looking at it based on those numbers."

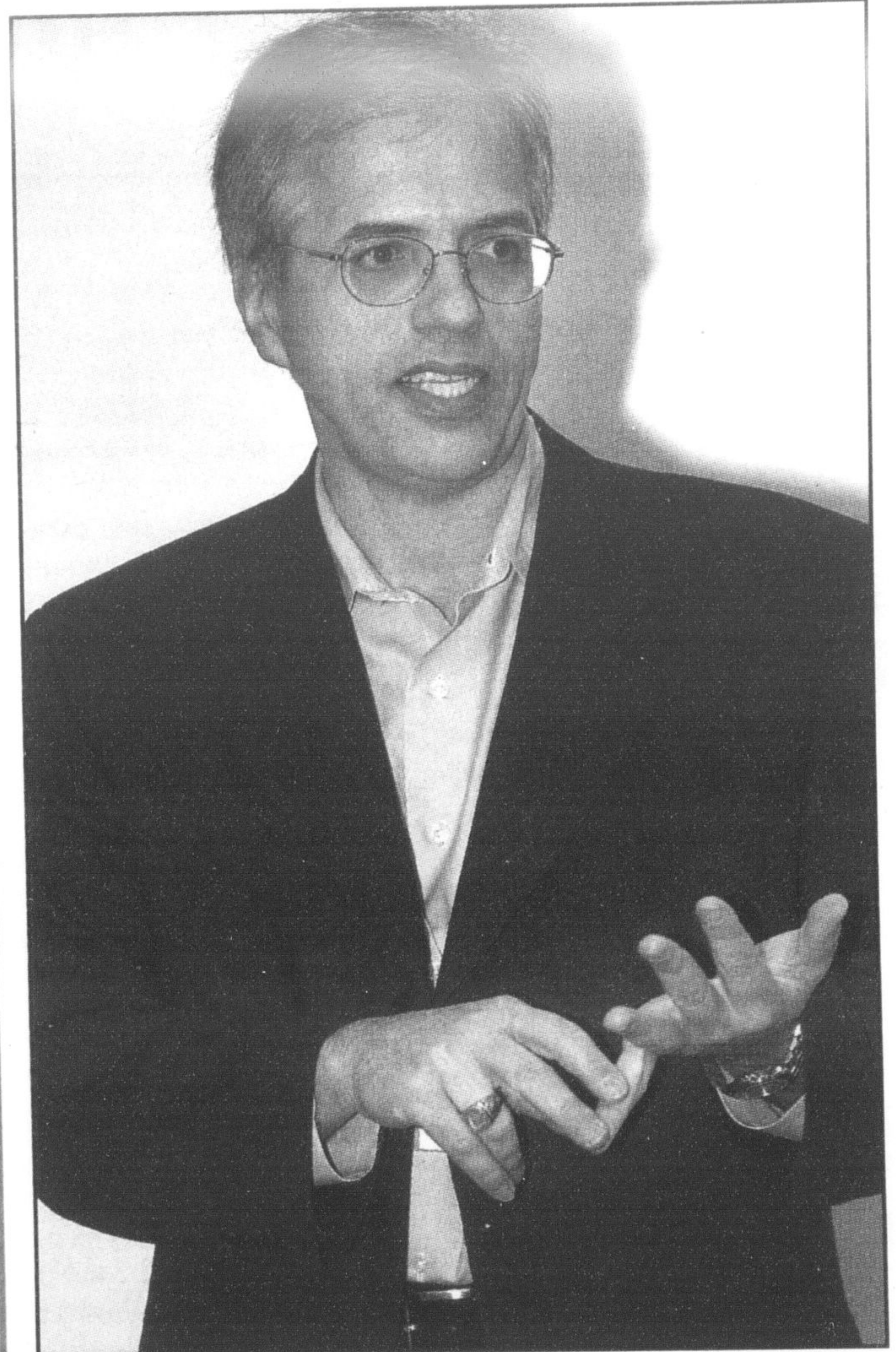


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Landscape Ontario Executive Director Tony DiGiovanni says he hopes to have a full-time school at the Fifth Line site.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

TTY: 905-878-1657

905-878-7252

MILTON
ON-LINE
<http://www.town.milton.on.ca>

PRE-AUTHORIZED TAX PAYMENT PROGRAM (PTP) JOIN NOW FOR THE 2002 FINAL BILLING

The Town of Milton has expanded the existing PTP program to accept enrollment application mid year. **Enroll between May 01 and June 13, 2002, and have your final 2002 taxes withdrawn automatically.** Due to time constraints, applications not received by June 13, 2002 will not be eligible to participate until 2003.

Applications will be mailed to you with your final tax bill (early June), or you are most welcome to pick up an application at the Corporate Services counter at 43 Brown St., Milton, or fill out the application form below. Don't forget that a void cheque must accompany all applications, and only accounts that are a) fully assessed (both land and house value) and b) paid up to date, will be accepted into this program.

Two programs to choose from

Monthly Plan: 10 withdrawals per year, the first business day of each month, February to November

Due Date Plan: 4 yearly withdrawals, on the last business day of February, April, June and September

For full program details, please contact the Corporate Services Department at (905) 878-7252 ext. 2193.

cut along dotted line

Town of Milton
43 Brown St.
Milton, ON L9T 5H2

APPLICATION FOR THE PRE-AUTHORIZED TAX PAYMENT PROGRAM

Terms and Conditions:

I hereby agree to all terms and conditions outlined in the PTP Program and authorize my bank to draw and issue payments to the Town of Milton for payment of property taxes. Enclosed with this application is a void cheque.

Check One: Monthly Tax Payment Plan Due Date Tax Payment Plan

Tax Roll Number

Property Address

Owner Name(s)

Mailing Address

Phone Number

Fax Number

Name of Financial Institution

Transit Number

Account Number

Branch Address

Branch Phone Number

Signature 1

Date

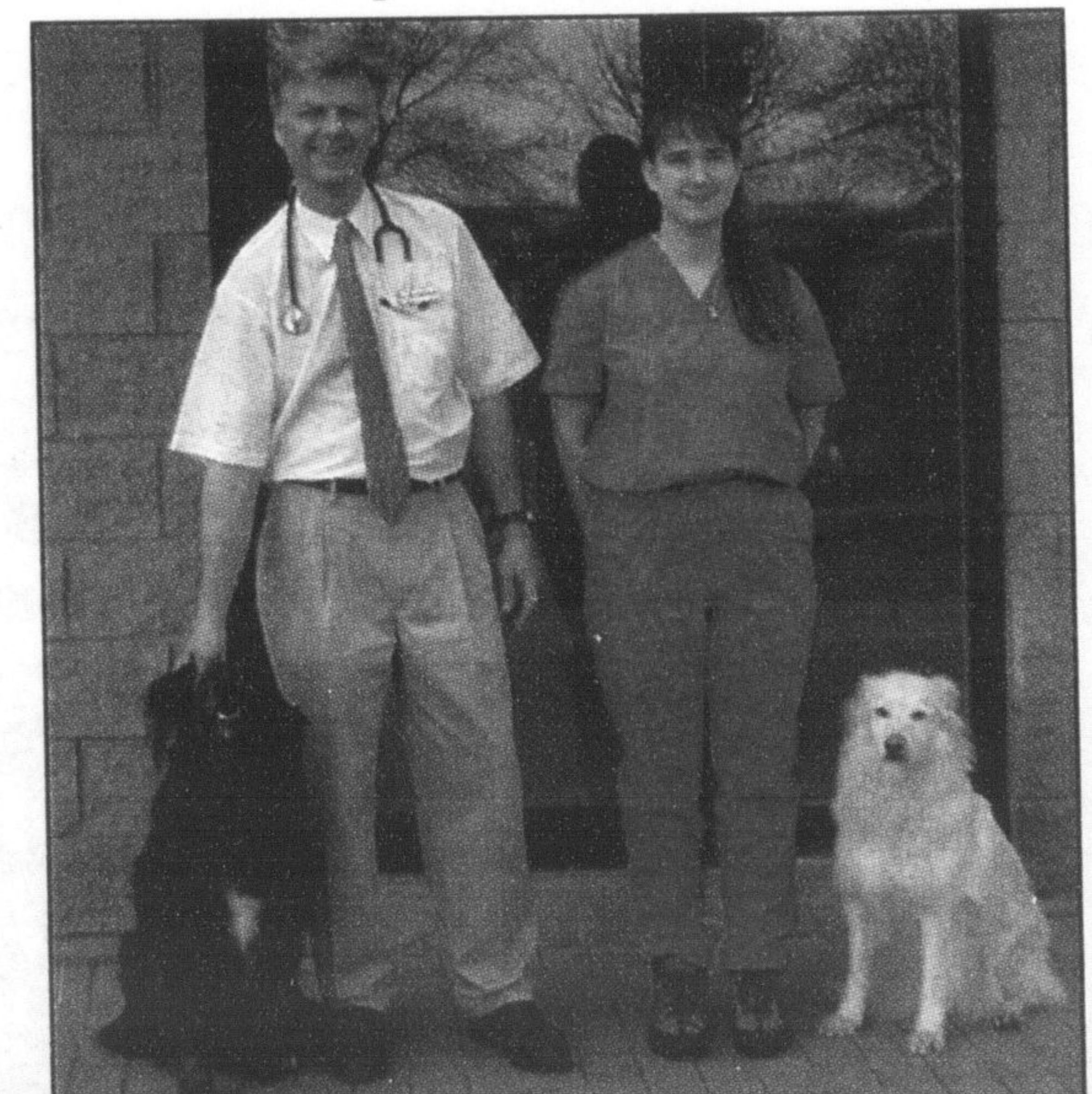
Signature 2

Date

****For joint accounts, all depositors must sign if more than one signature is required on cheques issued against the account.**

Mainview Animal Hospital

Dr. Larry Landsborough



Dr. Landsborough Erica Coulson

Registered Veterinary Technician

- Medical, Surgical, Dental and Diagnostic Services
- Accredited Veterinary Mobile for Housecalls
- Grooming
- Daycare
- Professional Service

*Milton's Newest
Animal Hospital!
Come in for a visit.*

905-875-3777

17 Wilson Drive, Unit 1 Milton, ON
(Corner of Main & Wilson, across from Rona Cashway)