

Hard work pays off for business award nominees

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**

The Champion

When the Milton Community Awards began more than 30 years ago, the focus was quite different from what it is today.

The awards — started by the Royal Canadian Legion in Milton — recognized citizens of the year, as they do today, but that was about it.

When the Milton Chamber of Commerce took over the awards in 1981, various business categories were added, including two Business of the Year awards.

"We felt it was more focused to the changing community," said Sandy Martin, executive director of the Milton Chamber of Commerce.

This year, there are three nominees for the Business of the Year with 25 employees and less category: M. Putzer Hornby Nursery, Prothane Limited and Taylor Nursery/Lawton Landscaping. The winner will be chosen by the Chamber of Commerce selection committee and announced at its gala tomorrow night at Granite Ridge Golf Club.

The purpose of the gala evening, Ms Martin said, is to recognize Milton's businesses and volunteers. "They're the individuals that make the dif-

ference. It's their evening."

M. Putzer Hornby Nursery

Thirty years ago, John Putzer and his wife, Mary, started a nursery at 7314 Sixth Line. The plan was to grow larger-sized trees for their landscape company, and the nursery quickly expanded into what it is today. M. Putzer Hornby Nursery is now a wholesale nursery selling everything from trees to shrubs to perennials.

The key to the nursery's success is simple, Mr. Putzer said: hard work. "To be successful in any enterprise, you must love what you're doing and be willing to work hard for it."

The nursery employs 50 seasonal and 15 full-time employees. "Personally, I like the spring, walking through the rows of plants all budding out and blooming," Mr. Putzer said.

Prothane Limited

Prothane Limited has been in Milton since 1976. The company makes polyurethane parts for everything from vehicles to aircraft to machine tools.

"We have a good reputation and get lots of referrals," said Maureen Flight, Prothane's vice president and one of the owners. "We'll try almost anything in polyurethane."

The company has about 10 employees.

"It's a friendly company — we all get along," Ms Flight said, adding that because it's a small company, each worker gets to do different tasks instead of being stuck with one. "I've always enjoyed working here."

In November, Prothane settled into its new premises on Esquesing Line. "We finally have our own property," Ms Flight said.

Taylor Nursery/Lawton Landscaping

Taylor Nursery, at 7429 Fifth Line, opened 15 years ago as a division of Lawton Landscaping, which started 28 years ago. Philip Lawton owns the company with his wife, Barbara, and their son looks after Lawton Landscaping, which is primarily landscape maintenance. Their daughter also works with the company.

Mr. Lawton said he's honoured to be nominated and suspects it's because of how customers are treated. "The customer always comes first. People are very happy with the service."

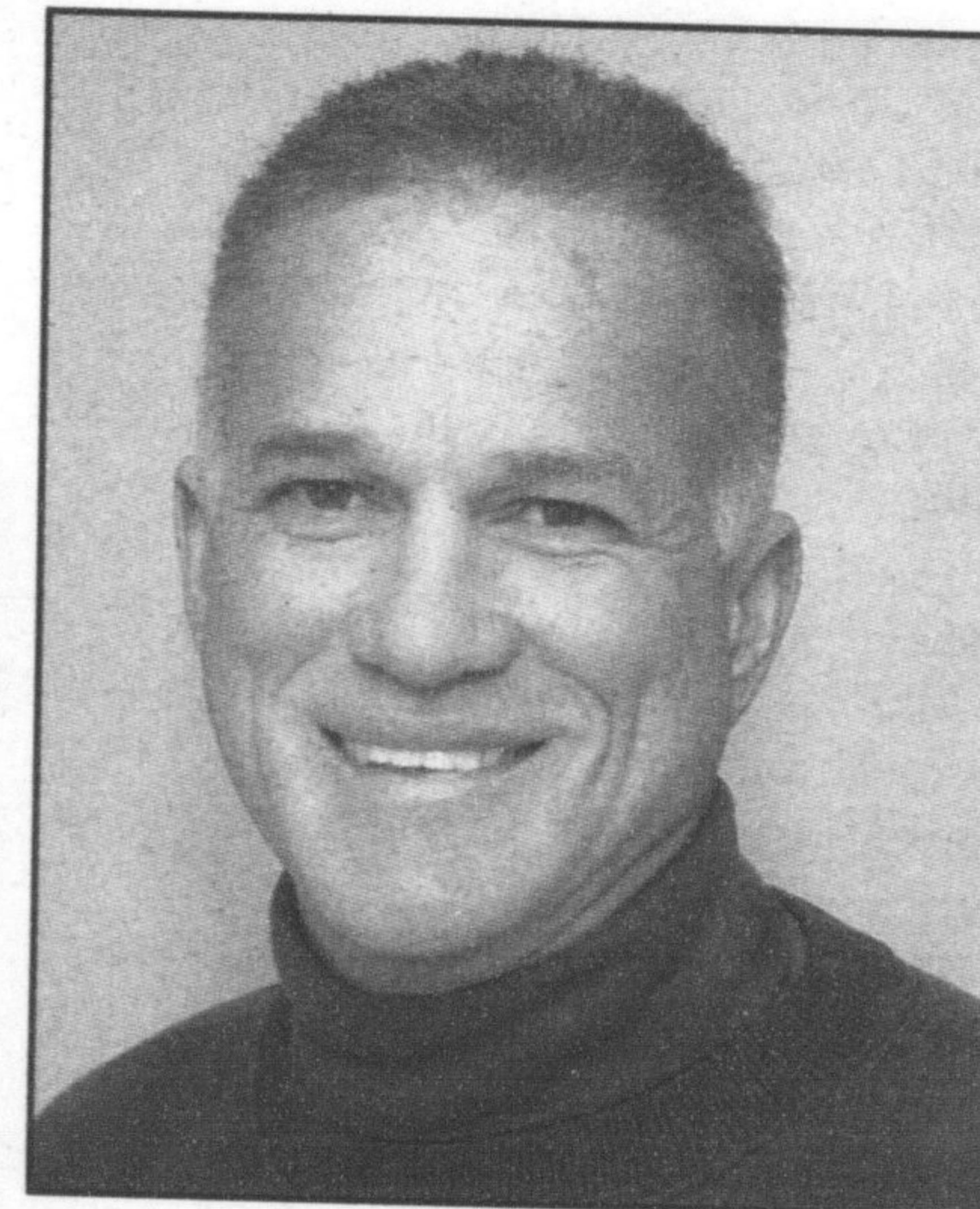
Meeting different people on a regular basis is definitely the best part of the job, Mr. Lawton said, along with helping and educating customers.

There are 15 full and part-time employees in the summer at Taylor Nursery.

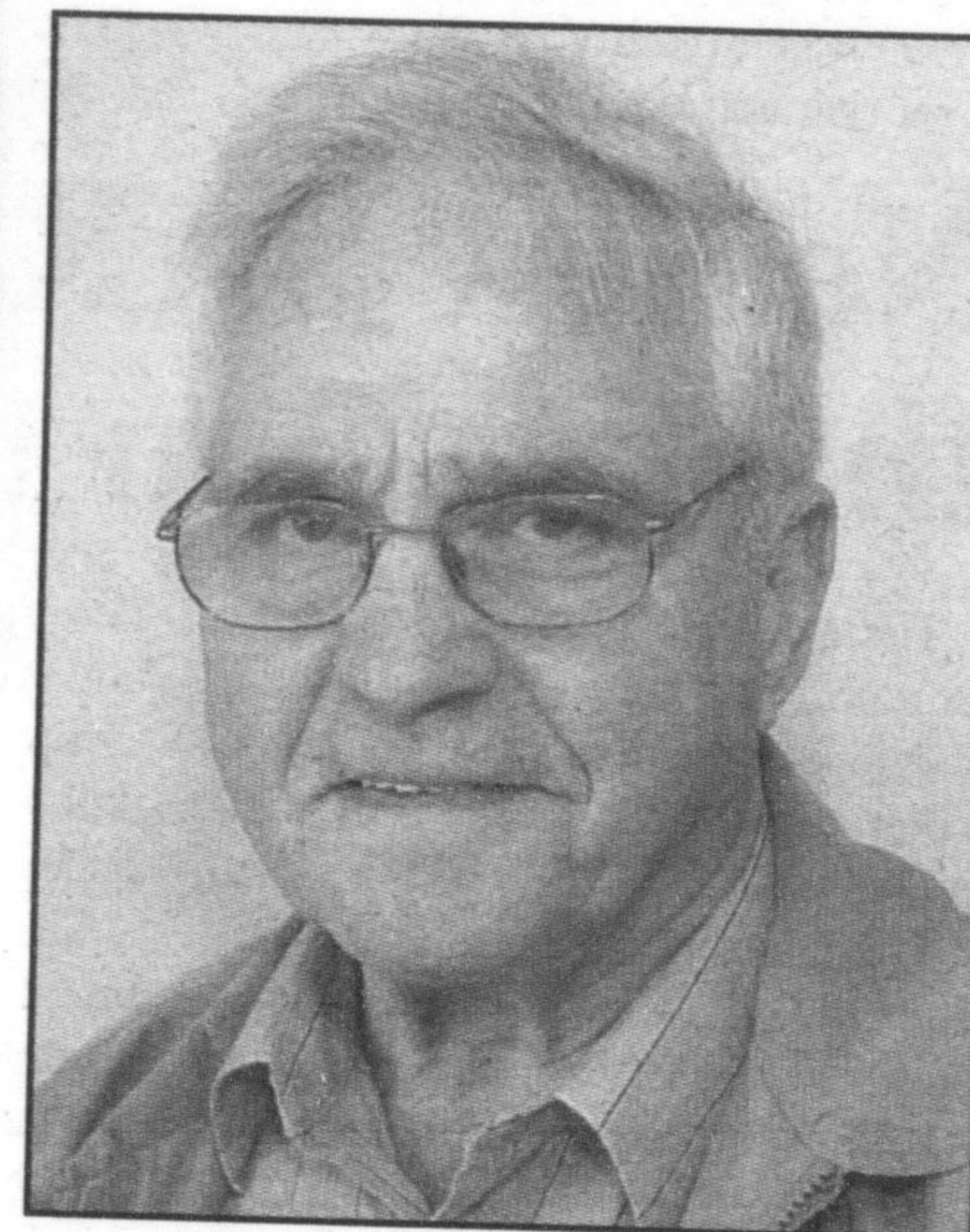
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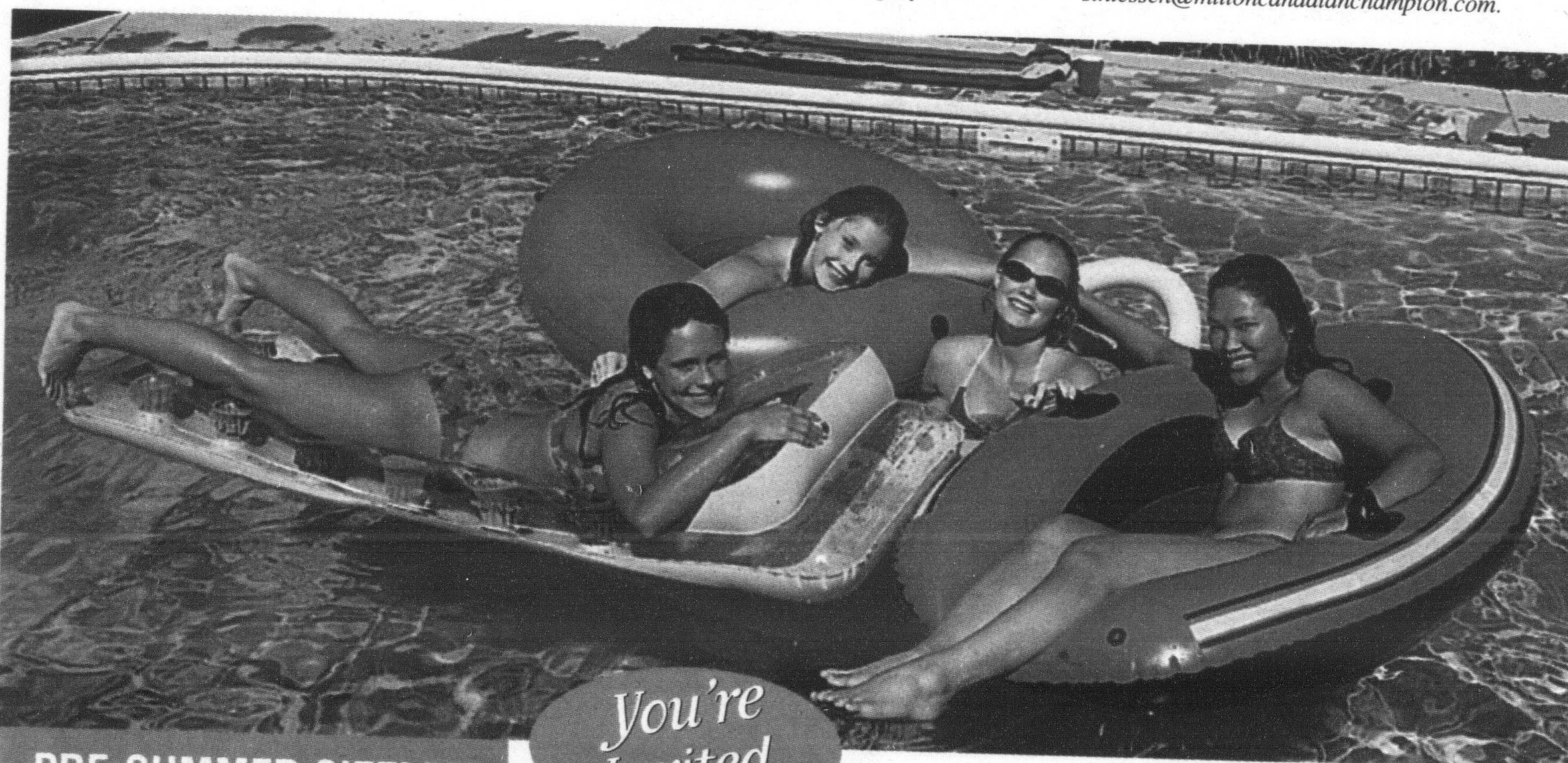
Prothane Limited's
Maureen Flight



Taylor Nursery/Lawton
Landscaping's Philip Lawton



M. Putzer Hornby Nursery's
John Putzer



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