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BRIDGESTONE BLIZZAK LM-22™ With UNI-T™

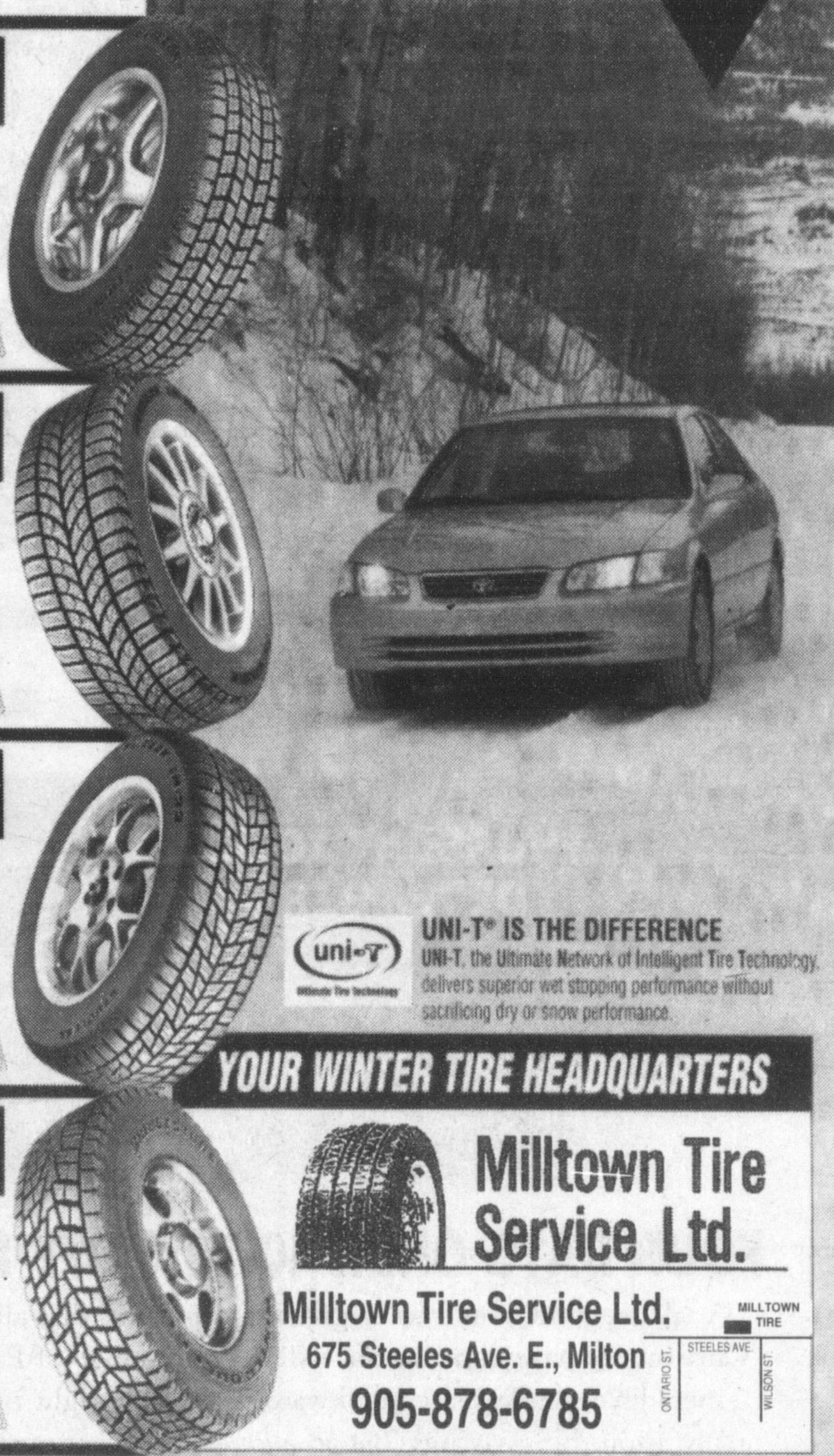
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Martin is Habitat for Humanity's new executive director

By **TIM WHITNELL**
Special to The Champion



Habitat for Humanity Halton (HFHH) finally has a new executive director.

Joanne Martin comes to the full-time paid position at HFHH from her previous job with the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) in Hamilton.

HFHH was without an executive director for 10 months following the firing of Hamish Robertson in late January.

A long-time Burlington resident, Ms Martin was originally hired as VON Hamilton's director of development and communication in February 1997. She was promoted to executive director of the VON Hamilton Foundation in April 1999.

She has been active as a leader of the VON national fundraising committee and acted as a mentor to development officers in other branches. During her stewardship, VON's donor base and total annual funds raised increased substantially.

Prior to joining the VON, Ms Martin was director of community relations at the Burlington Association for Community Living (now the Burlington Association for the Intellectually Handicapped) for two-and-a-half years.

Earlier in her career Ms Martin and her husband, Rick, purchased five houses near McMaster University in Hamilton. They had them renovated and rented them to students.

"This experience provided us with first-hand knowledge of home renovation, construction, maintenance and landlord-tenant relations," said Ms Martin.

"I feel like I'm home at the ReStore because I'm so used to being in hardware stores," she said of the organization's used

home-building supplies retail outlet, which is part of the organization's regional headquarters on Appleby Line.

"Operating the Halton affiliate is a diverse and complex business, one that encompasses successfully managing a charity with a large and active volunteer base, a retail operation and a construction company," said HFHH board Chair Perry Catena.

Habitat For Humanity is an international, independent, non-profit, Christian housing organization dedicated to providing home ownership to low-income working families in need of simple, affordable housing.

As long as the homeowner keeps up interest-free mortgage payments over the amortization period, usually 20 to 25 years, a smaller second mortgage is forgiven with no extra payments due.

The organization is currently investigating build sites in Oakville, Burlington, Georgetown, Acton and Milton to accommodate waiting families. The group's goal is to build 13 more houses by 2006. HFHH has built two homes in the region in the last two years, side by side on Plains Road in west Aldershot.

Said Ms Martin, "We're close to getting some land and we intend to build next year. There are two or three sites so whichever comes to fruition.

"In the past we've done two single-family homes. Now we're looking at a single-family home and some townhomes due to the cost of land in Burlington. Sometimes that's a better use of property with the space available."

She noted there's property for sale in the four corners of Halton and she can envision HFHH doing simultaneous builds.

"We need to attract more families to let them know there are opportunities out there to afford a home with a zero interest mortgage," Ms Martin said.

Fund is accepting proposals

The Halton Healthy Community Fund is accepting proposals from groups seeking funding for community-based projects.

The fund pools money from local partners to support projects that make Halton a healthier community.

One-year funding is available up to a maximum of \$30,000, with more available based on the availability of funds and the

project's success.

The Healthy Community Fund is comprised of 10 partners. In 2003, the fund supported 21 community projects.

Healthy community fund 2004 guidelines and submission forms are available from Halton by calling (905) 825-6000, ext. 7163. The documents are also available at www.region.halton.on.ca/scs.

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