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Weekend **Champion**

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2003 record year for development

By **JASON MISNER**
The Champion

Milton experienced a record year for residential and industrial development in 2003, and Town officials say this pace of growth will likely continue for some time.

Last year the Town issued 1,990 building permits, exceeding last year's total of 1,776 permits, according to a staff report released to the Town's administration and planning committee meeting Monday night.

Champion up for top award

The Canadian Champion has received a nomination in the Ontario Community Newspapers Association's (OCNA) 2003 Better Newspapers Awards.

The Champion, which now has a circulation of about 16,500, was nominated with two other newspapers for general excellence in the circulation category of 12,500 to 24,999.

The general excellence category judges editorial, advertising and overall presentation of the newspaper.

Also nominated were the Orangeville Banner and Stoney Creek News.

Final placing of first, second and third will be announced at the OCNA awards gala March 6 at Toronto's Inn on the Park.

A permit allows for a developer to begin construction

Also, Milton secured 698,907 square feet of industrial-commercial-institutional (ICI) development last year, eclipsing 2002's figure of 651,104 square feet.

Mel Iovio, Milton's director of planning and development, said he expects to see this rapid rate of growth for at least the next three or four years. "There's nothing on the radar screen to suggest (otherwise)."

Terry Kay, Milton's chief building official, agreed. "We anticipate the same sort of action."

Perhaps an even more striking statistic to gauge the kind of explosive residential growth Milton is experiencing is to look at the number of housing starts in 2003.

Erica McLerie, market analyst for the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Cooperation (CMHC), said there were 1,973 housing starts in Milton last year, also a record. That means a foundation was being poured to begin construction.

Much of Milton's growth, Ms McLerie said, is due to the 'Big Pipe', which is a

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INSERTS

• Friday, January 23 •

- Shoppers Drug Mart • Zellers • Food Basics
- Canadian Tire • No Frills • Fortinos
- Allstate Insurance Co. • Covers
- Acton Garden Market • Longos • Sobey's
- High Density • Moga Furniture • Future Shop
- Sears • Kids Futures • A&P

*Selected areas only

Mirror image

Aspiring hockey star Lita Curran, 2, gets accustomed to the boards as she takes a few steps on the ice at Milton Sports Centre. This is her first year on skates.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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