

Speed limit may be raised

By **JASON MISNER**
The Champion

Milton public school board Trustee Paul Tate says he doesn't feel comfortable with a Town recommendation that the speed limit along a portion of Commercial Street be raised to 50 km/h.

"I'm not very happy about that," he said. "I think the whole area should be designated a community safety zone."

Community safety zones are located near areas sensitive to traffic, like schools, where fines for speeding are doubled. There are currently five such zones in Milton.

On Monday night the community services committee passed a staff recommendation that the speed limit along Commercial Street, between just north of Sydney Street and Heslop Road, be raised to 50 km/h. Currently the limit is 40 km/h during school days between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

According to Heide Schlegl, the

Town's co-ordinator of traffic and transit, Milton's speed policy states limits can be lowered if schools front the roadway and if the roadway has poor geometrics — like bends or curves — or a high collision rate.

Ontario's Highway Traffic Act stipulates motorists can't exceed 50 km/h on a roadway within an urban area, but municipalities have the discretion to lower the speed limit for safety reasons.

After studying the area, the Town's engineering services department concluded that the 40 km/h speed limit isn't warranted because no school fronts Commercial Street, few pedestrians walk in the area and it's free of any major visibility or structural problems.

Also, speed counts show motorists aren't obeying the limit and, on average, are exceeding it between 18 km/h and 22 km/h, depending on the time of day.

"There's no reason not to keep it at 50 km/h," Ms Schlegl said, noting J.M. Denyes fronts Thomas Street, which runs parallel to Commercial Street. "There's total disregard for that 40 km/h speed limit."

"Increasing the speed limit shouldn't increase their (motorists') operating speed because they drive that area like it's already 50 km/h."

But Mr. Tate fears motorists could drive faster than the posted limit. "I think there are a lot of children along that roadway. It's also a busy thoroughfare. I think within the town people should be paying attention to the speed limit."

Mr. Tate said he will raise the issue at the next school board meeting and attempt to contact Mayor Gord Krantz to voice his concerns.

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Trustee supports initiative

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the children we're all for," said Sergeant Jeff Corey of Halton Regional Police.

Milton public school board Trustee Paul Tate said he favours any measure that attempts to protect kids.

"I think anything that adds to safety we would have to support," he said.

Mayor Gord Krantz, also supportive of the move, stressed that all motorists should use extra caution when travelling in school areas. "We all should be very cognizant of that fact."

Jason Misner can be reached at jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

New officers sworn in

Two new Milton police officers were officially welcomed during a swearing-in ceremony yesterday at Halton Region headquarters in Oakville.

Constables Kevin Kreibich and Melissa Parsons were among 10 new Halton police officers who will serve in the region.


The officers recently finished their training at the Ontario Police College, and will now head out for on-the-job training.

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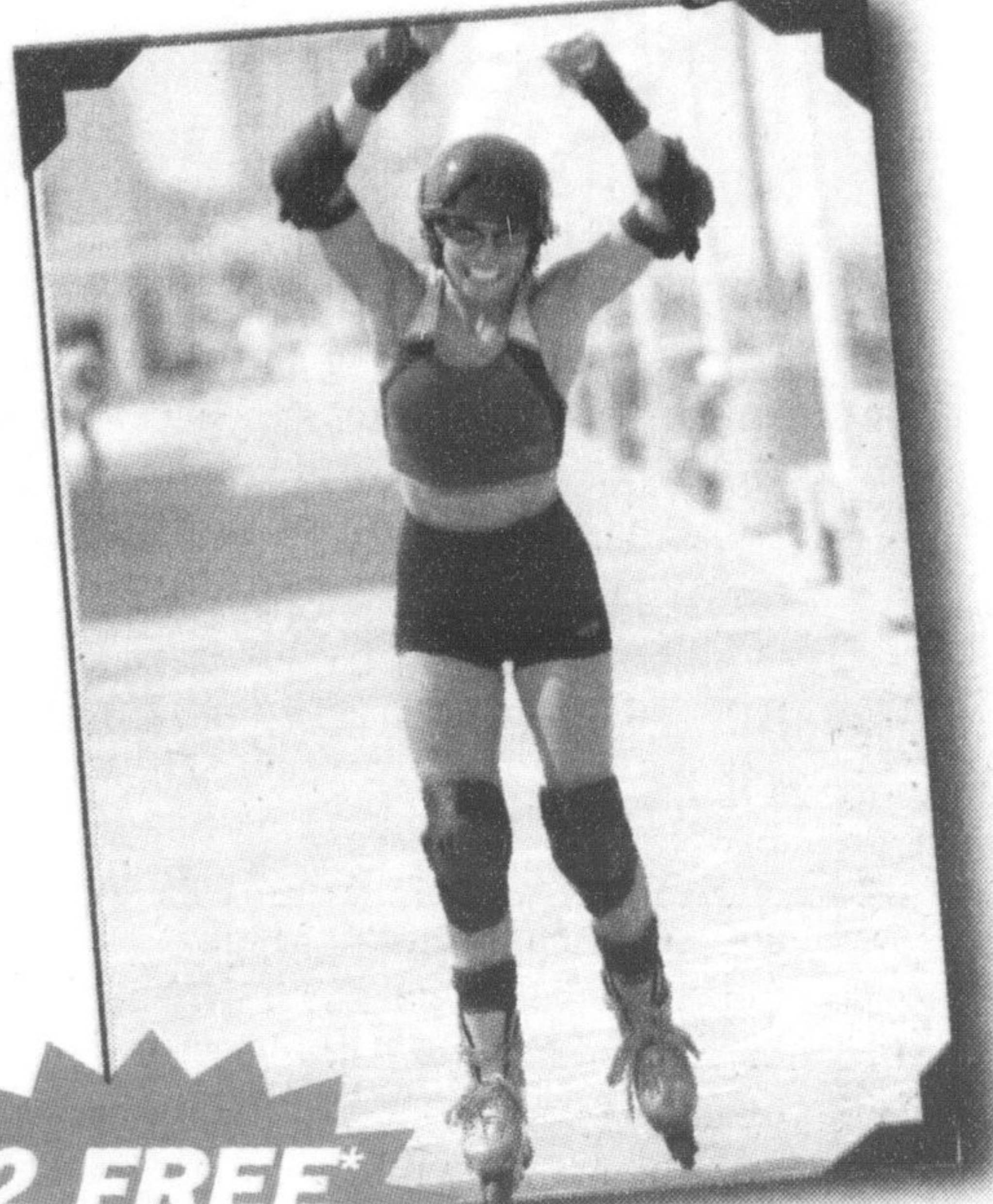
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