

NEWS

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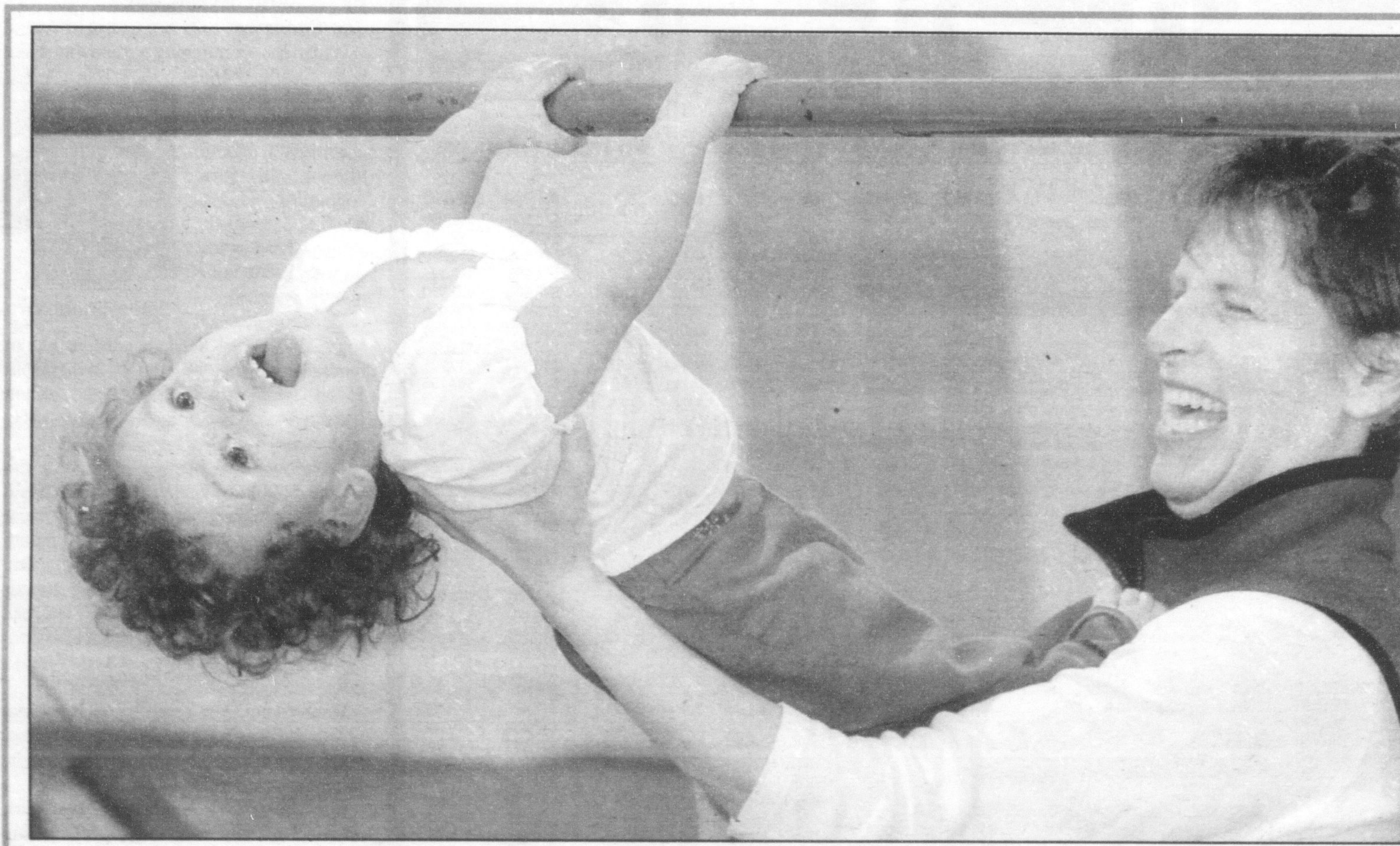


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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 146 NO. 92 FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006 \$1.00 (GST included) 48 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Hanging out at the gym

One-and-a-half-year-old Alyssa Hagley hangs from a parallel bar with a little help from mom Nicole. The two were taking part in the Parent and Tot program at the Milton Springers Gymnastics Club. The nine-week, 45-minute program is an introduction to gym discovery and a fun, interactive time for parents and children. See more photos on page B6.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Committee passes hotel development

By MELANIE HENNESSEY
The Champion

A proposed retail/commercial development with a hotel at the northeast corner of Main Street and James Snow Parkway received the preliminary thumbs up from the Town Monday night, despite one resident's urging not to do so.

The potential development — which would include a gas bar, car wash, retail stores, restaurants (including a drive-through), a convenience store and a hotel with a maximum height of seven storeys — was supported by the administration and planning committee and will now have to be approved by council.

Before endorsing Official Plan and zoning

bylaw amendments necessary for the proposal from M. Durante Enterprises Ltd. to proceed, the committee heard from Milton resident Bob Beyette, who asked its members to stop the amendments from going ahead.

"I believe the Town needs to better involve the public with this initiative," he said.

"I now urge this committee to not allow this proposed amendment to the zoning bylaw to proceed until much more effective public awareness happens and thorough public consultation takes place in accordance with the Town's Guiding Principles for Public Consultation."

While he acknowledged that a sign facing James Snow Parkway has been erected on the property regarding the proposal, he deemed it to be "fairly small and hard to read."

He also said he appreciates that the Town has

held two previous public meetings on the issue, but pointed out no residents attended the sessions.

"Might I suggest that it wasn't due to a lack of interest that the public didn't attend these meetings, but rather a lack of awareness that these meetings were even taking place," he said. "No one knew."

This raised the ire of Ward 4 Councillor John Challinor, who challenged Mr. Beyette on his statement.

"How do you know that no one knew?" he asked.

Mr. Beyette told him he read in staff's report on the matter that no members of the public attended the meetings.

Mr. Challinor said that most members of council have been contacted by residents on the proposed

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