

Treasuring new challenges

Leeds savours opportunity as the Town's new treasurer

By **Melanie Hennessey**
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Although she may be filling some big shoes these days, Linda Leeds is taking it all in stride.

It's been five months since she took over the reins as the Town's treasurer and director of corporate services from Jim McQueen, who recently retired after more than two decades of holding the position.

And while the soft-spoken woman said it's "more than a little intimidating at times" to try to measure up to McQueen and his legacy, overall she feels things are going well.

"I'm just really happy to be here," she said from her office in Town Hall Victoria Park. "I have the advantage of having worked here for a number of years."

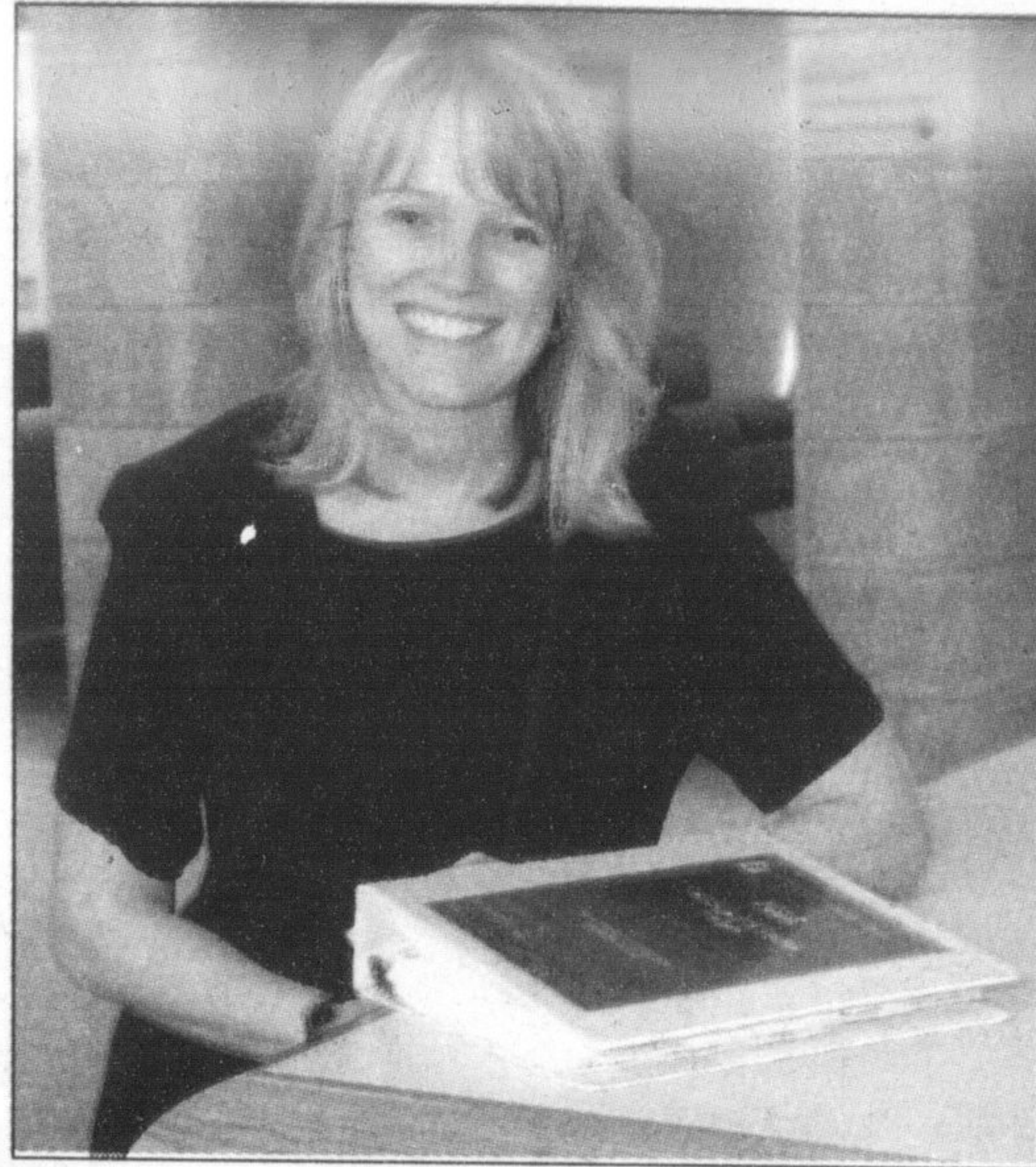
The certified general accountant first came to Milton in 1988 as the manager of accounting and IT. After a two-year hiatus in the 1990s when she went to work for the City of Guelph, Leeds came back to Milton as the deputy treasurer.

"I had a real respect and admiration for this organization," she said of the Town.

As the deputy treasurer, she held responsibilities regarding things like property taxation, accounting and the Town's annual budgets — experience that's helped her transition into her new role.

So what does Leeds like about now being the Town's top bean counter?

"Every day is a bit different," she noted. "And as a member of the senior management team, you have more of an opportunity to participate in some of the Town's strategic decisions. That's fun



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION
Linda Leeds has taken the reins as the Town's new treasurer and director of corporate services.

and challenging."

Another part of the Puslinch Township resident's new role is attending all council meetings — something she said she's also enjoying.

She explained that listening to the discussions at those meetings gives her insight into what councillors and residents feel are current issues in Milton and where the Town's resources should be directed.

Looking back at the time she's spent so far as a Town employee, Leeds said she's most proud of having been involved with the team that negotiated financial agreements with local developers.

"I think they're tools we've been able to put in place that will help the Town stay financially sta-

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