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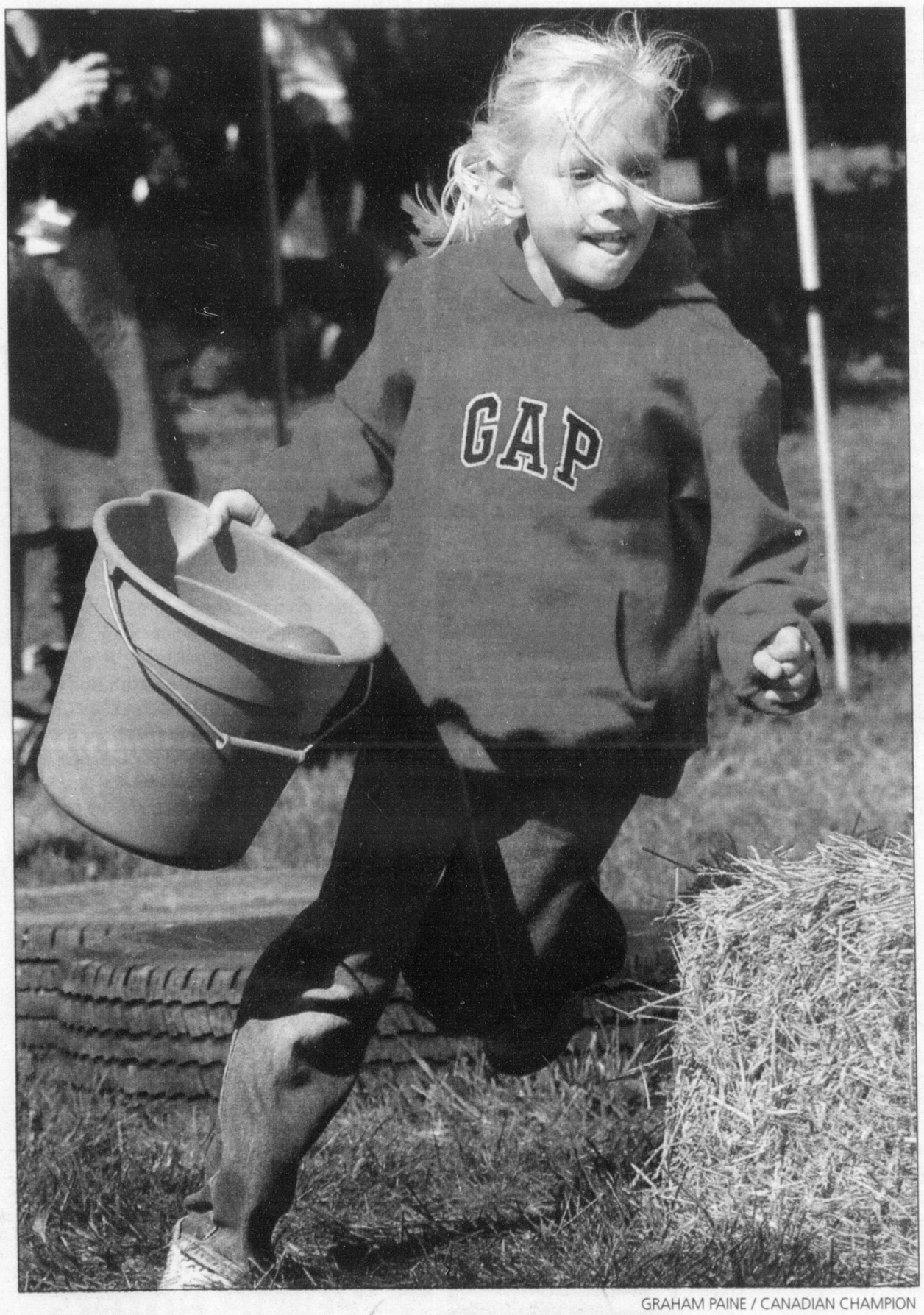


GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

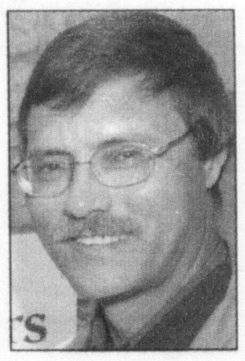
WATER WORKS: Natalie Feluch, a grade 4 student at Guardian Angels School, races with a pail full of rubber balls Tuesday in the 'Off I Go' relay race, one of the many activities during the three-day Halton Children's Water Festival at Kelso Conservation Area. The event, which wrapped up yesterday, was co-hosted by Conservation Halton and Halton Region in partnership with the public and Catholic school boards and the Town of Oakville. The festival featured more than 50 outdoor Ontario curriculum-based activities designed to educate 3,000 grade 3 to 5 students in Halton on one of the world's most precious resources — water.

Town investigating growth slowdown

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Town staff will soon begin investigating how to slow down Milton's rapid residential growth.

At its meeting Monday night, town council passed a motion put forward by Wards 2 and 4 Councillor Ron Furik that asks staff to look into options or new policies that would reduce the speed of development.



Ron Furik

The local and regional councillor recently announced he wants to slow growth down so that Milton's roads can "catch up."

"I'm committed to fixing this problem," Furik said during Monday's meeting. "If we can do anything in our power to slow down the process, we should be doing it."

This council not to blame: Furik

Furik also addressed the naysayers who've been publicly blaming the current council for the development problems since he announced his intentions to come forward with the motion.

"I laugh to read it's this council's fault," he said, noting he feels the councils from five to 15 years ago were the development decision makers — councils he said he was sitting on as a local representative.

In an interview with The Champion, he went on to say, "Don't point fingers at this council. They had no decision making in this development. It's not fair."

Ward 1 Councillor Rick Day, who's long been against the rapid development happening in Milton, seconded the motion.

He said while he thinks the "traffic problems in town have become unbearable," the Town is trying to bring the road infrastructure up to date.

The motion detailed the problems Milton has been experiencing due to rapid growth, such as that roads and other infrastructure required haven't kept pace with the large population increase.

But Ward 4 Councillor John Challinor begged to differ.

"We're not behind on all roads and infrastructure," he argued.

During the meeting, Ward 1 Councillor Brian Penman provided background information on how the town's growing pains evolved.

He said the community had a strong opinion that existing residents shouldn't have to cover the costs associated with growth. So in turn, the Town had to wait for development charges to be

• see MOTION on page A4

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