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'\$100,000 club' doubles at Town

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The number of Town of Milton employees who earn six-figure salaries doubled in 2006, according to the Ontario Ministry of Finance.

The ministry's recently-released list of civil servant earnings shows that 12 members of Town staff are now in the '\$100K club', compared to six in 2005.

Mayor Gord Krantz told the *Champion* that annual raises and keeping up with the rate of inflation put more Town employees into the higher earnings bracket.

He also said he thinks public sector salaries should be benchmarked at a rate higher than \$100,000, noting that things have changed dramatically since the Province introduced the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act more than a decade ago.

"Many people now make \$100,000, even driving a dump truck," he pointed out.

CAO earns most

Town CAO Mario Belvedere was Milton's top earner for 2006 at \$168,196, followed by Town Community Services Director Jennifer Reynolds with \$131,163.

Planning and Development Director Mel Iovio wasn't far behind with \$131,096. Other Town staff who broke the \$100,000 mark were: Engineering Director Paul Cripps, \$119,365; Corporate Services Director and Treasurer Linda Leeds, \$114,821; Fire Chief Larry Brassard, \$113,863; Senior Manager of Planning Policy Bill Mann, \$107,991; Deputy Fire Chief Dave Krantz, \$105,503; Senior Manager of Development Services Anne Dawkins, \$105,362; Chief Librarian Leslie Fitch, \$105,269; Senior Manager of Information Technology Pam Ross, \$102,781; Chief Building Official Terry

Kay, \$101,622.

At Halton Region — which includes police — 74 employees were paid \$100,000 or more in 2006, up from 60 in 2005.

Regional Chairman Gary Carr said Halton is trying to pay quality employees what they're worth. He said that has enabled the Region to employ smart people who have done their best, with their training and skills set, to help keep taxes down.

There are contracts Halton has to adhere to, he noted.

"We always try to get something that treats our employees fairly and we think we've done that and believe we've got a great staff to provide the services we need," he said. "We believe we have an excellent pay structure that is fair to our employees and is also fair to our taxpayers that ultimately pay the bill."

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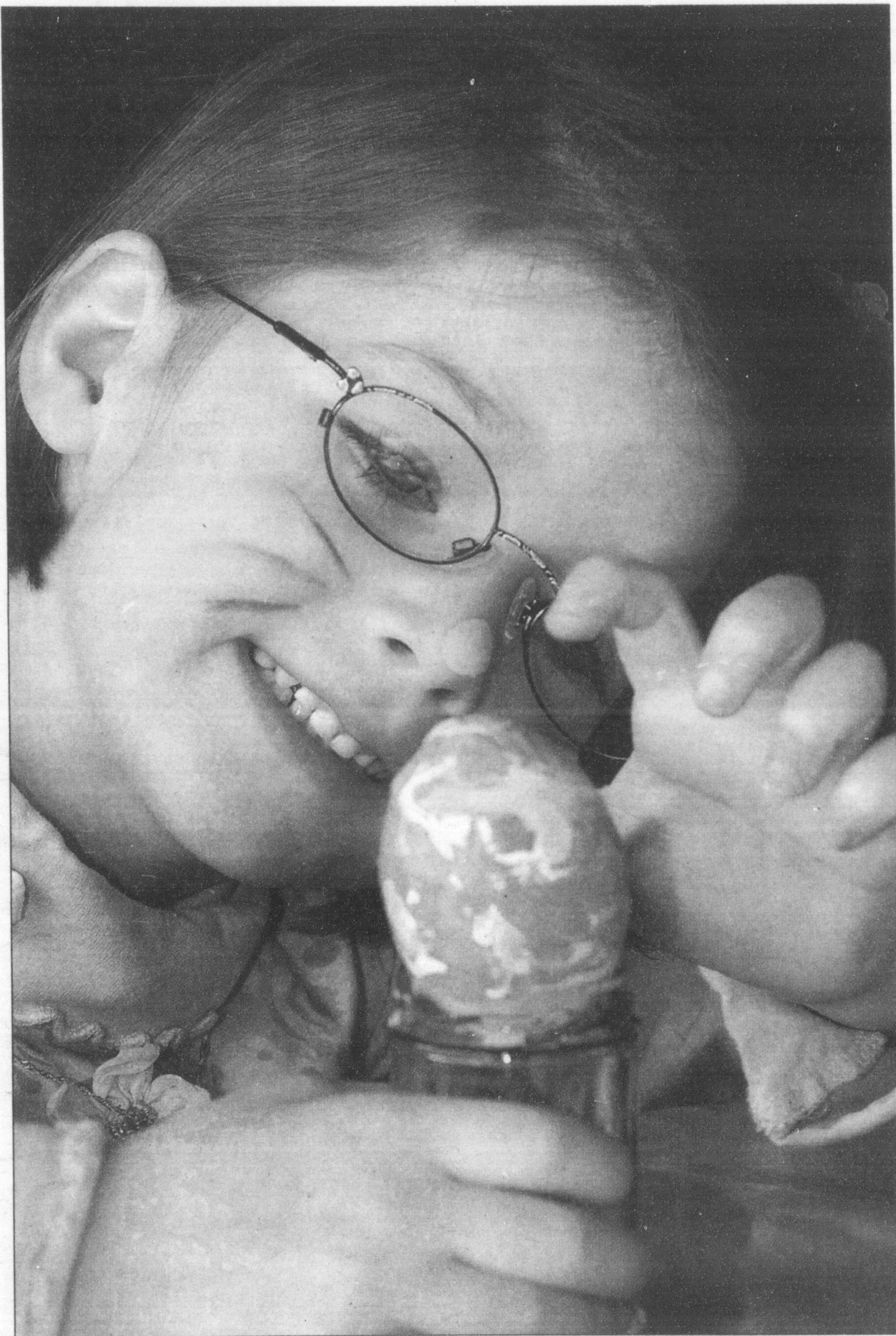
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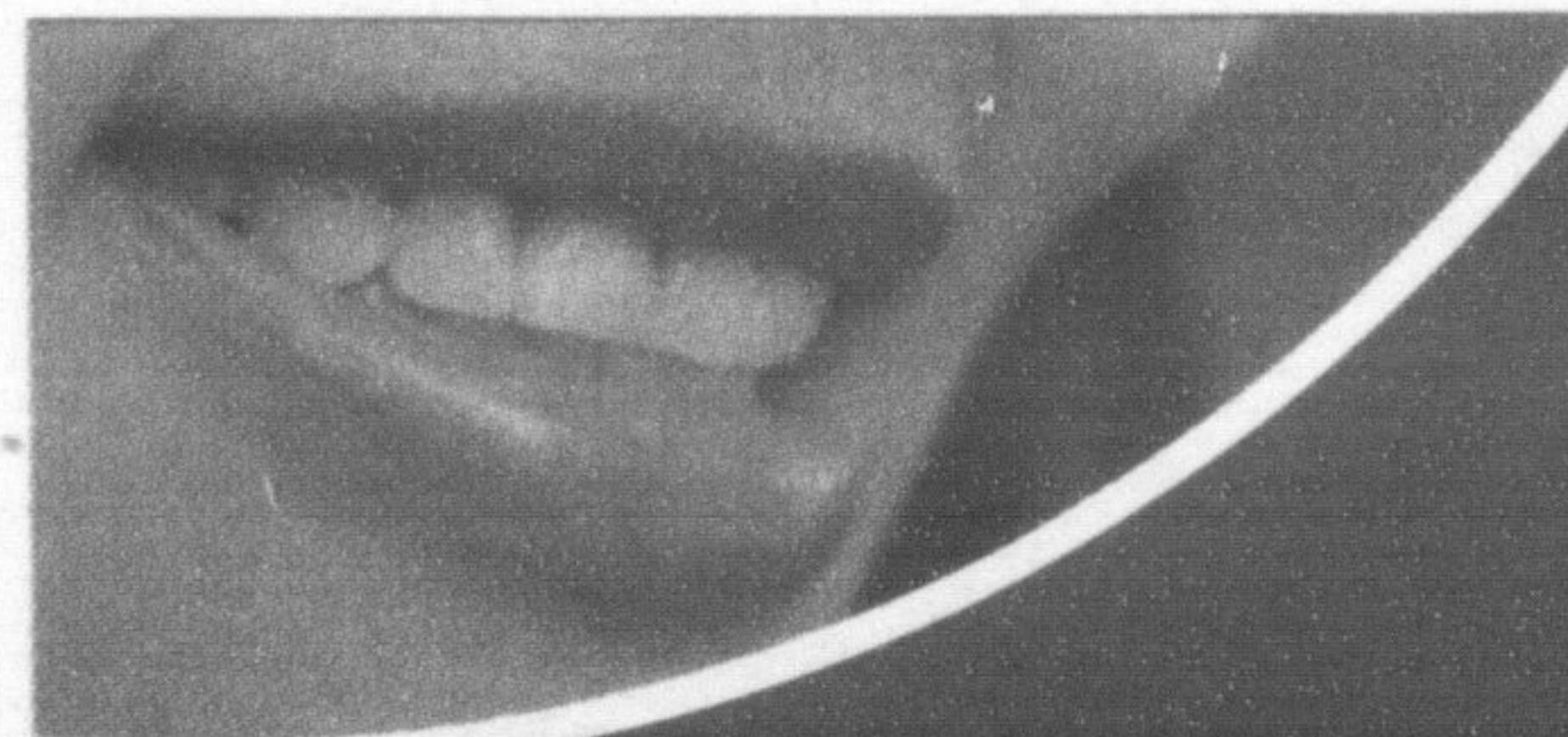
National Car Rental



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

EGGCELLENT: Rachel Kingstone, 5, puts the final touches on her painted Easter egg Sunday as part of the weekend's 'Eggcellent Easter Adventure' activities at Springridge Farm. The event also included egg hunts, face painting and wagon rides. See more photos on page A14.

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