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Town reviewing snow control operations; looks to improve

By **Melanie Hennessey**
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

In light of the severe weather that walloped Milton last winter, the Town has taken a hard look at its snow control operations and plans to make some changes.

More plowing staff and field supervisors and increased parking enforcement are among the recommendations staff is making to improve service during

the winter months.

A report that went before the Town's community services committee Monday night also calls for increased snow control on Milton's sidewalk and trail systems and a beefed up communications campaign to get the Town's 'Allow the Plow' message across.

Ward 4 Councillor Wendy Schau said she was pleased to see the report, noting she received quite a few complaints from residents last year.

She said sidewalk plowing is particularly important to maintain accessibility for people with disabilities.

Fellow Ward 4 Councillor Paul Scherer said while it was a tough winter last year, he though the municipality did an outstanding job in keeping the town running through difficult times.

He said the number one complaint he heard was that in some areas, certain streets would be pristine while others nearby would be impassable.

"We have to ensure we're equitable," he said.

The staff report recommends:
 • Bringing on four additional contract staff members to ensure operators for all Town-owned

equipment

• Hiring three contract supervisors to oversee plowing operations in the field, respond to customer service requests and act as parking enforcement officers during winter events

• Increasing parking enforcement activities to remove parked vehicles blocking plows

• Increasing communications, including the 'Allow the Plow' campaign and more brochure distribution

• Increasing the number of sidewalks and trails maintained by the Town by 14 km.

The committee endorsed a motion to put the request for additional snow control staff off until the 2009 budget deliberations. The extra staff is expected to cost \$141,000.

The motion also indicates that the changes to the sidewalk/trail plowing program and communications strategy should be funded from the winter control reserves for more immediate implementation at a cost of \$34,000.

The item will be on town council's agenda Monday, Sept. 22.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com.



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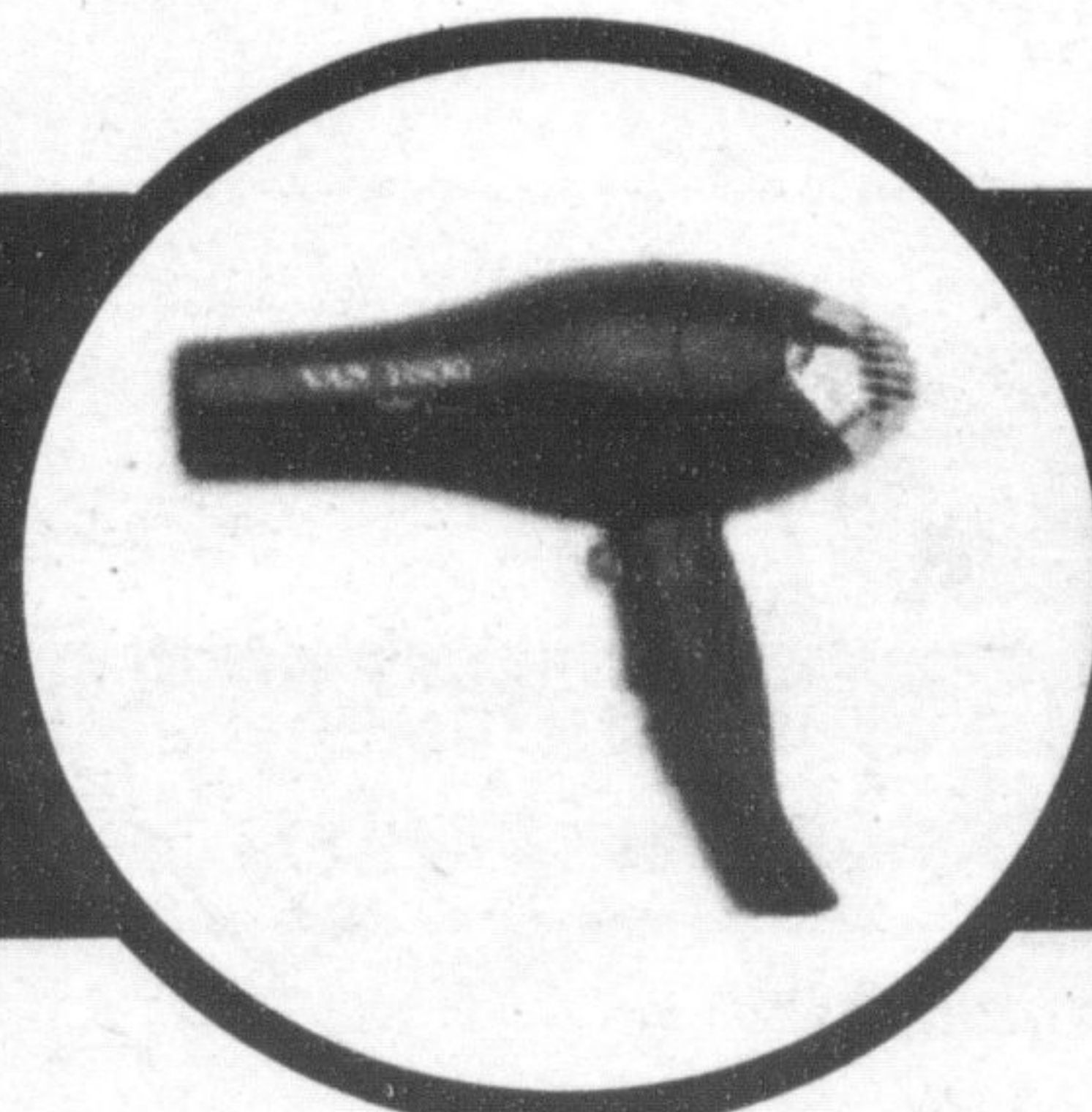
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