Centre plan sees partnership with local developers

from DESIGN on page A1

lines proposed weren't advanced sufficiently to ensure the project was 'construction ready," states a staff report submitted to Milton council.

The Town had filed its application in late November under the Building Canada Fund for communities with populations under 100,000. The Town's application stated it intended to complete construction of the arts centre and library by 2014, well within the program deadline of 2016, according to the staff report.

However, when the two upper levels of government announced February 13 they were putting forward a combined \$667 million to support municipal projects, Milton's proposal wasn't listed as a winner. Based on conversations with government officials, Milton staff learned that the projects that received priority attention were those that were "shovel or construction ready."

In the recently-released federal budget, the Canadian government announced billions of dollars in new infrastructure funding to be spent over the next two years as part of an economic stimulus package.

Milton has already released a list of 10 projects totalling almost \$10 million that it says are construction-ready and eligible for that federal government' funding.

In order to make the arts centre and library construction-ready as well, staff will:

 Negotiate an amendment to the lease with Milton Hydro to reduce the required notice period for the utility to vacate its premises at the southeast corner of Main Street and Thompson Road, where the Town proposes to build the cultural project. The current lease permits a two-year notice period. Milton staff would work with hydro staff to provide alternate accommodations for their administrative and storage/outdoor yard requirements.

• Engage external services to complete a concept plan for the site and prepare a Request for Proposal document to engage architectural services to complete detailed design and contract administration for the

facility. Council hasn't approved the construction of the arts and entertainment centre, though it did approve in principle a business plan for the facility in 2006. At that time, it also approved \$100,000 in annual funding for five years to go toward the project from the Milton Community Fund, paid for by Mohawk Racetrack slot revenues.

The 2006 business plan envisioned a possible partnership with the development community to help build the project, by possibly including a condominium on the site. Current zoning of the site permits a

nine-storey residential building, according to a staff

southview dental

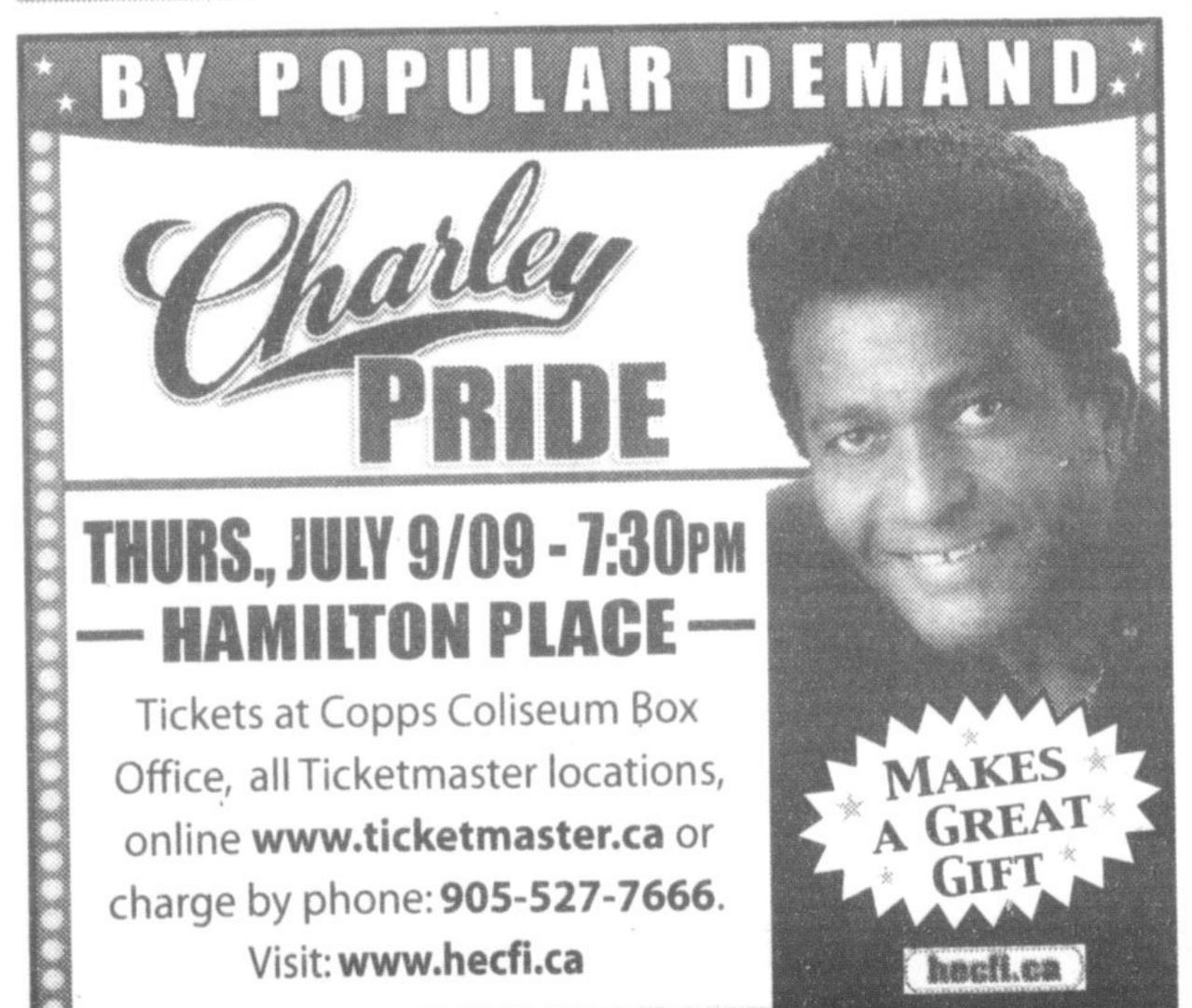
Dr. David Johnson

Dr. Loukas Papas

Providing Dental Care in Milton since 1993

New Patients Welcome

905-876-4701 www.southviewdental.com



report accompanying the 2006 business plan.

The Town's capital budget forecast projects construction of the facilities between 2011 and 2013. Proposed funding includes about half of the cost for the \$14.2 million new central library from develop-

ment charges, while community fundraising would fund an estimated \$4.2 million of the \$26 million arts and entertainment centre.

Tim Foran can be reached at tforan@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

People who take first aid training reduce their personal



DIRECT PARTS LINE 905.875.0111

www.gallingerford.com

MAIN STREET

655 MAIN STREET EAST, MILTON, ONTARIO