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Martin awarded highest honour by Ontario Chamber

By Kathy Yanchus
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Milton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandy Martin has been recognized for her excellence in management and dedication to the community.

The Chamber experienced its greatest growth period with Martin at the helm, and she says healthy doses of optimism, realism and flexibility guided her through all the accompanying trials, tribulations and successes.

It was for this leadership, her dedication, mentoring and volunteerism that she recently received the Burnie-Gillespie Award, the highest honour handed down by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

"I was surprised, humbled, thrilled, mostly humbled," said Martin, executive director of the Chamber for almost 20 years. "People don't do their jobs for awards and recognition. You just do a good job every day — that's how you live your life. I was blown out of the water, to be honest."

Martin's leadership has greatly benefited the Milton community, as well as the entire Chamber network, said Len Crispino, president and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

"Leading a chamber requires a strong commitment to the advancement and economic prosperity of the community, but the Gillespie Award recognizes an individual who, like the award's namesake, goes well beyond the day-to-day," he said. "Sandy has certainly achieved that standard."

Martin is proud of the Chamber's evolution and accomplishments over the past two decades, a period which encompassed the town's tremendous growth spurt.

"We have such a diversified business community," said Martin.

Chamber membership has more than doubled and its 'baby,' the Milton Farmers' Market, has become one of the best in Ontario, she said.

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Milton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandy Martin shows her prestigious award. GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

No word on MDH expansion

Minister doesn't address issue during local visit

By Kathy Yanchus
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It was what Ontario Health and Longterm Care Minister Deb Matthews didn't say that sparked discussion following her quick departure from a shortened version of her 'Women and Politics' speech, hosted Wednesday morning by Liberal provincial candidate Indira Naidoo-Harris.

Disappointment was expressed among the small group assembled at Casa Americo Italian Restaurant that Matthews didn't touch on some of the subjects they had hoped, including the proposed Milton District Hospital (MDH) expansion.

As Matthews was hastened into her waiting vehicle by ministry staff to address a matter of urgency in Question Period, Naidoo-Harris assured those in attendance that she had invited the minister to tour MDH in the near future and mentioned the 18 new hospitals built since the Liberals took office in 2003.

With a slideshow operating behind her, Matthews introduced herself as a mother and grandmother, factors, she said, that

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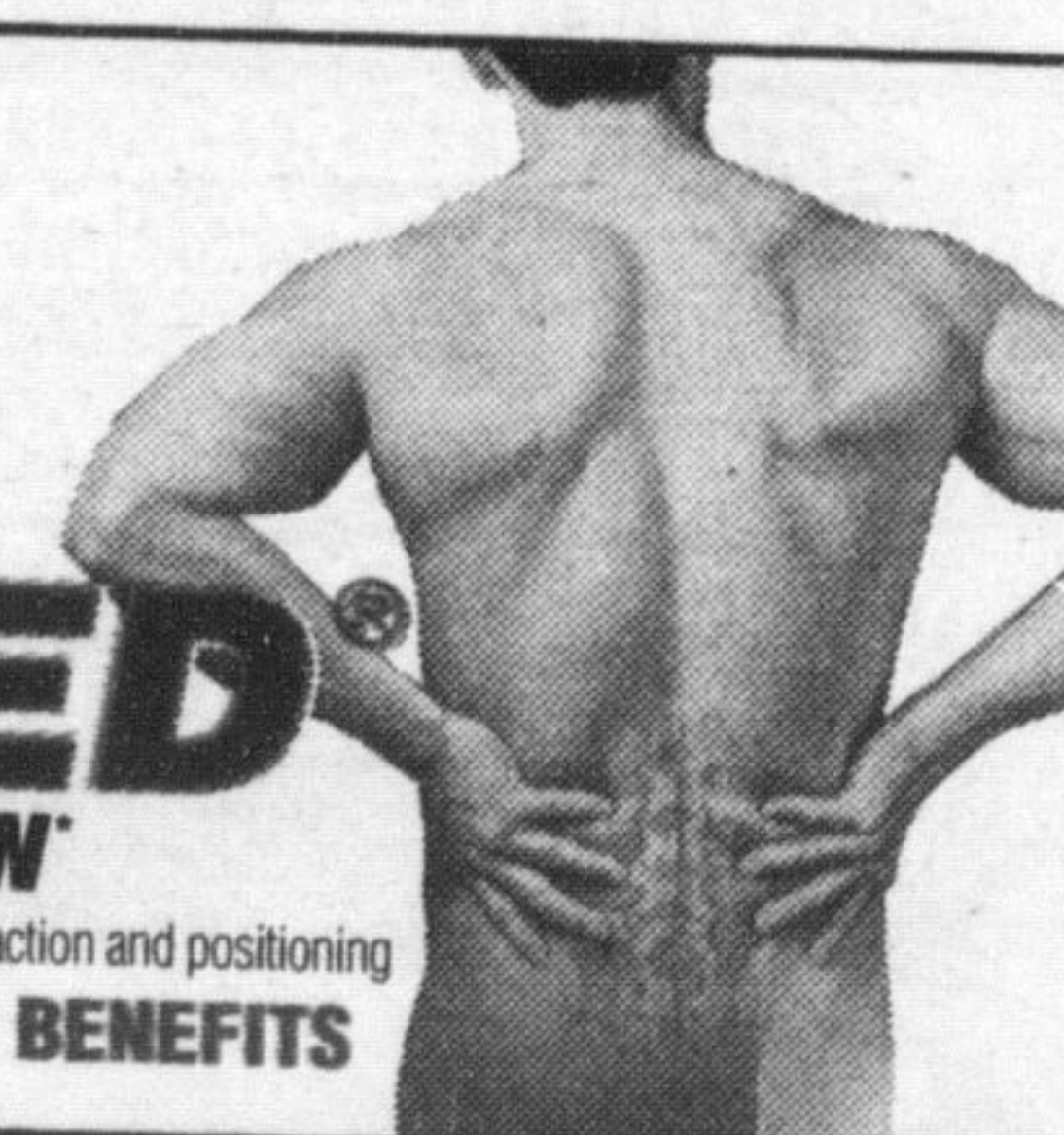
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