

The smallest of hands pull ever so strongly WO TINY HANDS tug at the keyboard as I attempt to write something for which the owner of those hands is responsible. I'm writing a farewell JANE

column. As small as the hands of my six-month-old son are, MULLER their pull is strong. They've grabbed hold of my heart and I refuse to uncurl their fingers to make escape pos-

I won't be returning to my job at The Champion. I've got a new job. His name is Benjamin.

Before I'd experienced his vice-like grip, I intended to take 17 weeks maternity leave. My husband, Vic, was to take 10 weeks' leave after that. We planned to hire a daytime nanny.

took the extra 10 weeks instead of Vic and by one I used to be.

It's been an interesting 14-year chapter in my life seven years as editor and seven before that working up to the position. I took pleasure in surprising those who asked what I did for a living. The reply "newspaper editor" is not at all common and sadly, even in the 1990s, a woman uttering that response catches the questioner off guard.

It wasn't uncommon to receive letters to the editor which began "Dear Sir". I know the writers meant "Dear Editor" and only assumed a man must be doing the job.

Perhaps the title "Sir" comes with the position. As editor, one quickly moves to celebrity status. As Sir Jane judged everything from babies to speeches to gingerbread houses and parade floats.

There were countless invitations and many obligations. It was not as though Mayor Gord Krantz and I should have formed a car pool or anything but he was at almost every event I attended. (He's everywhere, he's everywhere!) I've witnessed him cutting countless ribbons, published his photograph more times than our readers care to remember, and seen him sail through elections uncontested.

Sir Jane was thrown into jail not long after taking over the editorial reins of The Champion. Rose Harrison, at that time still a town councillor, was among the cellmates who raised money for Milton District Hospital. The "jail and bail" event at Milton Mall was one of many extremely successfull hospital fundraisers in which I feel privileged to have played a part.

Those who addressed my mail "Dear Sir" couldn't have seen me in various hospital auxiliary fashion shows. I have a feeling some letter writers would have liked to throw wet sponges my way if they'd seem me taking part in the auxiliary's annual Strawberry Fair. was soaked for the sake of the hospital at the sponge toss booth. Perhaps that's why the auxilians always in-



vited me to the group's annual meeting, which features the best pot luck dinner in town.

A lot of people I know in town own beautiful purple bath towels thanks to my involvement with the Milton Leisure Centre fundraising campaign. (Rose got me involved in that one too.) The reward for all of those early morning meetings, telephone calls, the trunk full of Christmastime I knew Jane Muller "editor" was some- commemorative glass blocks was measured lap by lap as I swam away my lunch hour.

> We tend to remember the good times more readily than the bad. There was no escaping tragedy while directing the editorial content of a community newspaper. The readers couldn't see the tears those bad news stories brought to my eyes and the empathy I felt for those involved.

Dear Sir: The news ain't always pretty.

As many shots that were directed at this messenger from readers who didn't agree with my decisions which stories ran and where, how big or small the photograph was, how the headline was written, whose name was left out or whose was included - there were more from those who liked what they saw.

The job wasn't as glamorous as some might believe but it certainly was never dull. The pressure of deadlines could be exhilarating as well as exhausting.

Milton had really become home to me even though (gasp!) I have never lived here. I just spent most of my time here and thanks to my job, got involved in more community projects, events and organizations than most residents. I was a most willing participant.

When Roy Downs, editor of the day, hired me 14 years ago, he explained there was a lot happening in this small town. I went on to repeat this to those I've hired and they've all been amazed, as I was, at how true it is.

Roy is one of the people woven into my memories of Milton, along with the other Champions past and present. Donna Coulter, not a member of the staff but certainly ready with her camera — everywhere (she and the mayor could car pool) - showed me what community involvement is really all about.

There are so many names, so many memories, so many lessons, so hard to say goodbye.

They're back. Those perfect little hands trying to catch my attention. We're attempting to master "pat a cake" but true joy comes from grabbing my hair . . . and not letting go.

MILTON HEARING AID CENTRE

You are coming. Make an Appointment by Calling us at

878-1100

Is Offering A Complimentary HEARING AID REPAIR AND SERVICE CLINIC

3006 DERRY RD. W., UNIT 106, MILTON (In the Derry Medical Centre across from Milton District Hospital)

Let us know You are coming. Make an Appointment by Calling us at

878-1100

We have been authorized to hold a Special Consultation February 12, 1994. A Government Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist will be available for counselling about your hearing problems and Factory Repair Technician, Philip Yau will also be on hand for free on-site minor repairs. For the sake of better hearing, don't miss this opportunity. Bring a friend or relative with you - someone whose voice is familiar and celebrate with us.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND — HERE IS WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE!

AN ELECTRONIC HEARING AID EVALUATION conducted by a Government Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist — someone who cares about your hearing - to find out which method of amplification may be the right one for you.

A demonstration of an all In - The - Canal hearing instrument. You will be amazed at how tiny a modern hearing aid can be! This is one of the smallest and most sophisticated instruments available.

IF you are wearing an aid, it will be cleaned and adjusted to insure maximum performance at no cost.

HALF PRICE BATTERY OFFER — Buy one box of Paragon Rayovac Zincair batteries and SAVE 50% on a second box.

YOU SHOULD HEAR WHAT YOU'RE MISSING TUNE IN TO THE SOFT VOICES NOT THE NOISE



This continuously self-adjusting amplifier enhances only the soft sounds - like people's voices, so you can hear more clearly in noisy situations. Annoying loud sounds pass through the noisy situations. Annoying loud sounds pass through the amplifier's microcircuitry without any amplification. So, if it is a problem when people speak too softly ... Call Us!

The location for this very special event will be 3006 Derry Rd. W

Unit 106,

Milton

FEBRUARY 12, 1994

10 am - 6 pm DON'T MISS OUT, CALL US TODAY

878-1100

The location for this very special event will be: 3006 Derry Rd. W Unit 106 Milton

SUNDAY 10 AM TO 5 PM SPECIALS ARE IN EFFECT FROM TUES, FEB 8 TO SAT, FEB, 12/94. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

WED. 9 AM - 9 PM

THURS. 9 AM - 9 PM

FRI. 9 AM - 9 PM

SAT. 8 AM - 6 PM

575 ONTARIO ST. SOUTH

(Corner of Derry Rd. & Highway 25)

CARROTS

MON. 9 AM - 8 PM

TUES. 9 AM - 8 PM

HOURS: