

Krantz resists dropping new homes to beef up businesses

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

If it comes down to new housing or more businesses, it's going to be more businesses, say big landowners in Milton.

Not necessarily, warns Mayor Gord Krantz. A new sewage plant filter system has provided room for modest growth in Milton, which many people want to see in the form of houses. But others, who own industrial land where sparse water services have restricted the type of businesses they can attract, want their utilities upgraded. They are more than willing to write cheques for that.

Mr. Krantz is undeterred. He said a 50-50 split between housing and industrial use of the increased water capacity is a reasonable expectation. He added he would be willing to move outside the urban boundaries to achieve that goal, something municipal council originally did not want.

"I don't have any idea of where those houses would go but we wouldn't want to be hopscotching around, with 100 here and 100 there," said the mayor. "Such a project will have to be financially viable for the town as well as the developers."

Industrial-commercial landholders requested and agreed to pay development charges on more sewage capacity than the project is expected to yield.

If the filtration project goes as planned, there should



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be enough capacity for the equivalent of 772 single detached homes. Led by Harry Snoek of Highpoint Business Park, business collectively requested services equivalent to 1,178 single detached units. While Mr. Krantz wants to allocate some of that capacity to homes, he is equally concerned that industrial lands gain increased capacity.

"Currently some lands are partly serviced and restricted to supporting dry industry," said the mayor. "Full servicing would increase the flexibility of businesses which could use the sites."

In addition to those willing to enter into an agreement, several other developers expressed support for the plan or interest in new construction outside the current urban envelope. These developers will be con-

• see MORE HOMES on page 12



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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Allison Richards of the Mountsberg Raptor Centre visited the Farmers' Market Saturday with 24-year-old great horned owl Oscar.

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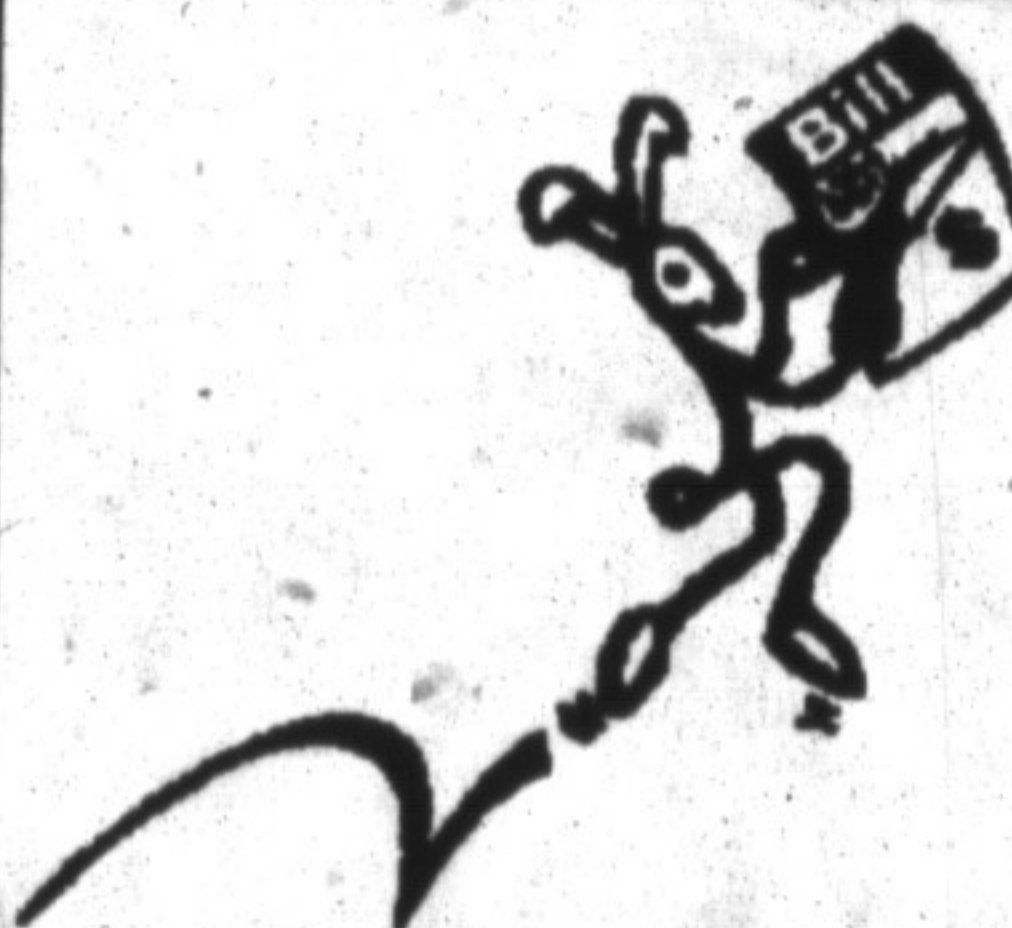
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