Merchants, Scouts and resource centre nominated for Organization of the Year

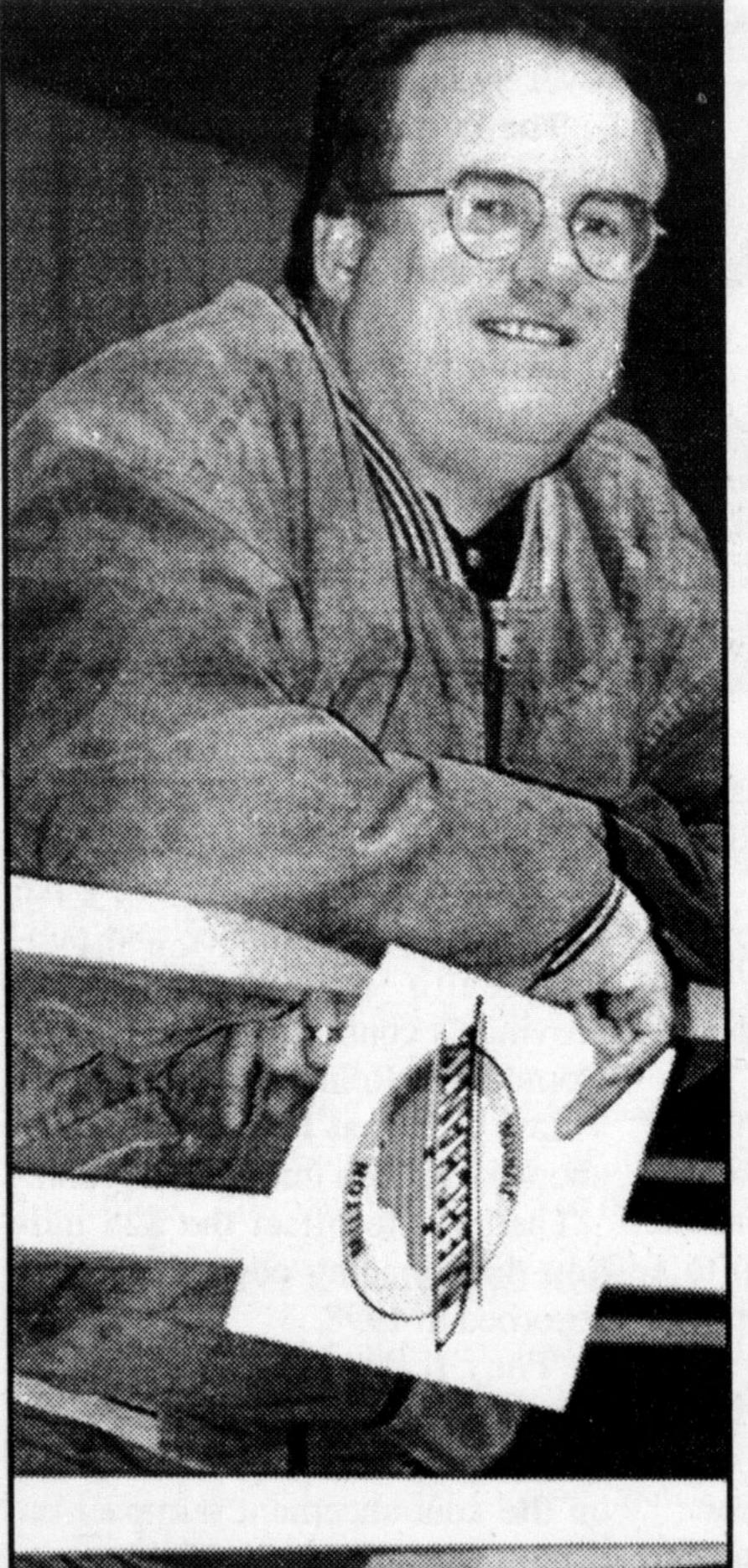


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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Brad Grant's Milton Merchants offer a hockey program that unites the sports community each season and also helps top players land university scholarships.

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Civic Organization of the Year nomination list boasts an overwhelming theme.

While each group in line for the annual Milton Chamber of Commerce Community Award takes a different approach, all three strive to help young people reach their full potential.

Doing so through the exciting world of sports are the Jr. A Merchants — which not only offers a hockey program that local youngsters can aspire to but also a launching pad for those who make the grade on and off the ice.

In recent years the team has been incredibly successful at securing scholarships for their top performers, including many homegrown stars.

Over a dozen players are currently attending university on financial assistance or are going to this coming fall. Owner Brad Grant explains that aggressively promoting players to that next level is one of the key elements of their winning formula.

"Right now we've got two local boys at Ivy League schools. That's something I'm extremely proud of," he said.

Mr. Grant took over ownership back in the late '80s when it looked as though the team might fold. He didn't want to see that happen, but also wasn't counting on such a long-term relationship with the club.

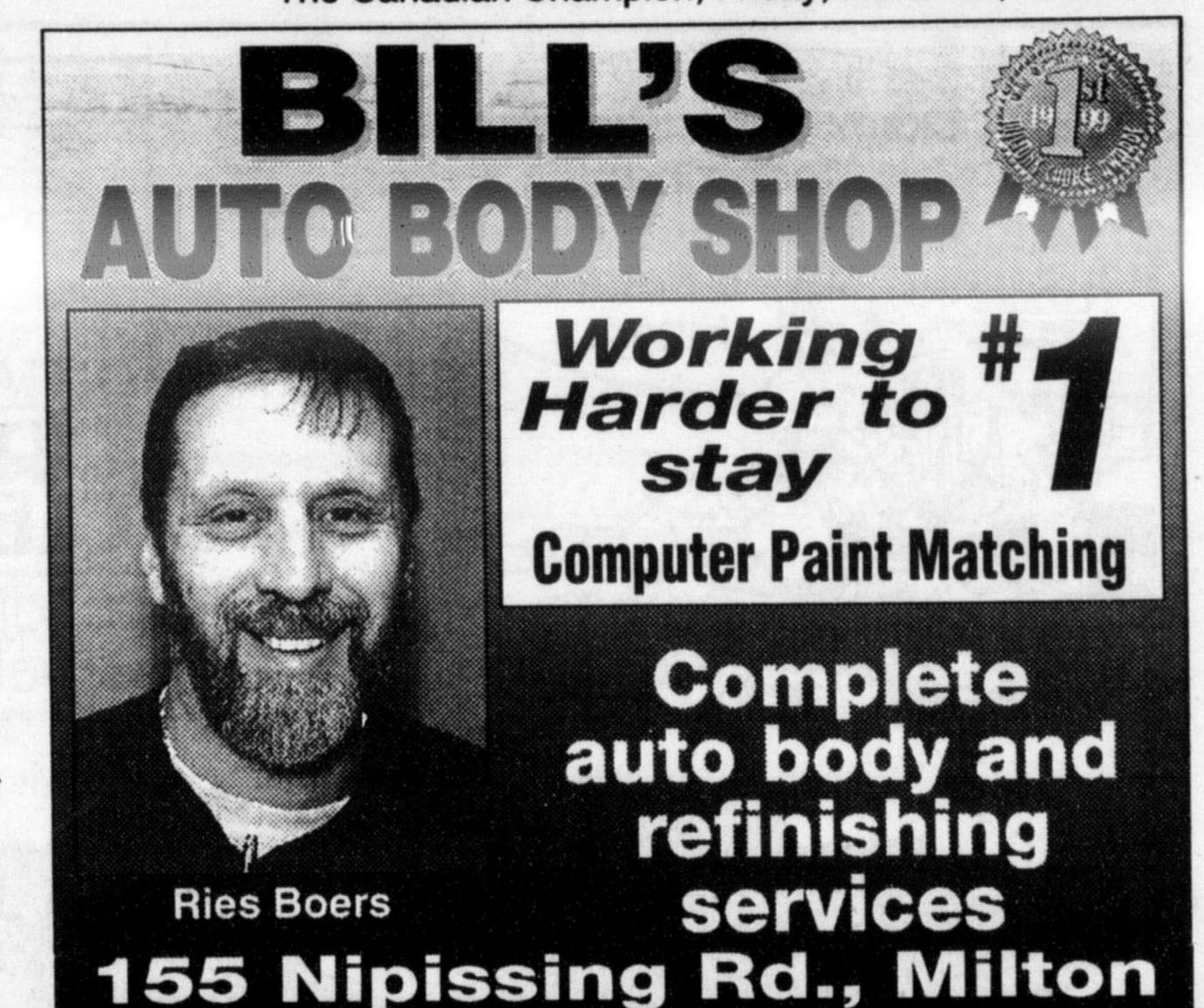
He explained, "I got hooked on it. It's been very rewarding, not from a financial standpoint but in many other ways. I was really flattered by the (Civic Organization

of the Year) nomination. There's a lot of great organizations that work hard for this community and it's nice that people would consider us among them."

Meanwhile, the Milton Community Resource Centre caters to a much younger audience through a variety of children's programs — for infants right up to adoles-

And that's just one of the many areas of focus under the umbrella group, which also includes Information Milton, the

• see NOMINATED on page 10

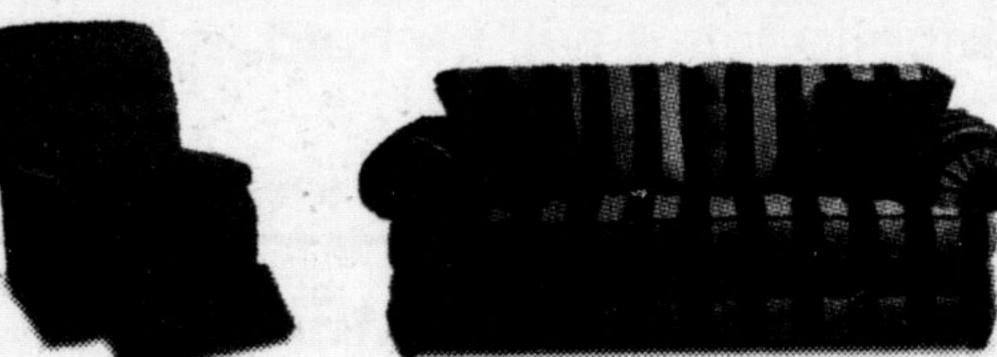


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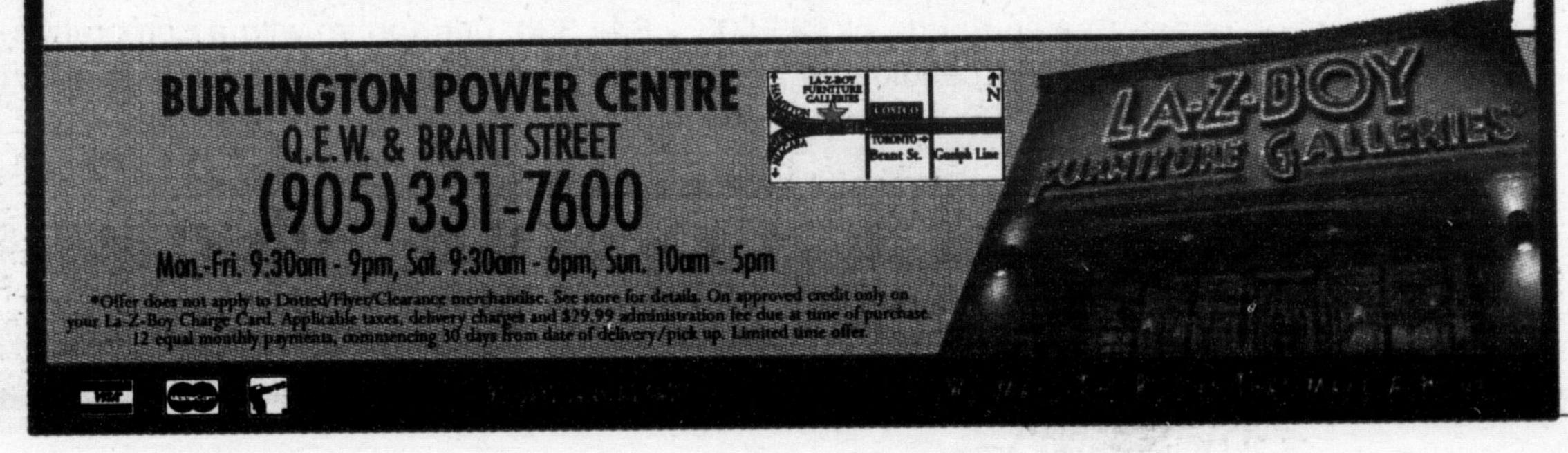
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