

Dave Tweedie recalls poletop living

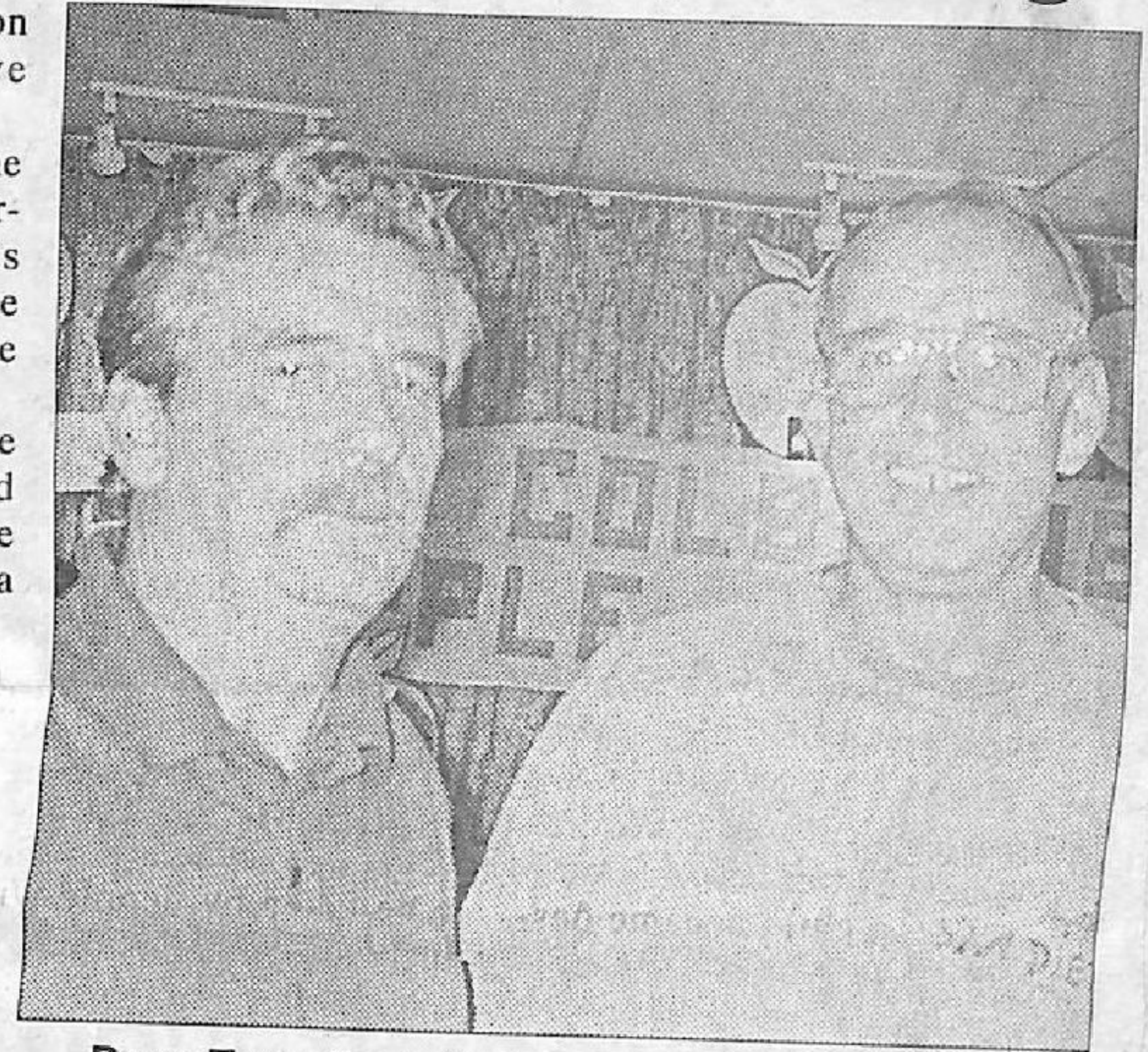
For seven nights and eight days in 1979, Dave Tweedie lived atop a pole in Colborne's Victoria Park. The Colborne Kinsmen member was raising funds for Cystic Fibrosis research.

Wife Diane and three daughters Elizabeth, Alexandra and Stephanie kissed their father good-bye on May 26. On June 2, 1979, he returned to earth after gain-

ing national media attention and raising \$5,000. Dave now lives in Smiths Falls.

When the larger area zone of the club took on sponsorship for Cystic Fibrosis research funding, Colborne Kinsmen really put the cause on the map.

Club members Dave Tweedie and Les Day had heard Gary Russell propose living atop a pole as a



Dave Tweedie, left, the man who pulled all kinds of stunts to raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis on behalf of the Colborne Kinsmen Club, now lives in Smiths Falls. He and Les Day, right, shared recollections at the 25th Kinsmen anniversary in Colborne last Saturday.

Photo by Mandy Martin

fundraising idea. Dave asked for the right to use the idea. He lived atop a pole in Colborne's Victoria Square Park for one week:

"I lived up there for seven nights and eight days," Dave recalls. "They sent my food up in a basket I lowered down and pulled back up."

And?

"They put a drain pipe down through the pole into the ground. I used that as a washroom. That's why one spot in the park is greener than the rest."

But it was no treat, Dave recalls. The platform swayed in the wind, and he had the fright of his life when another club member pulled on a guy wire for fun.

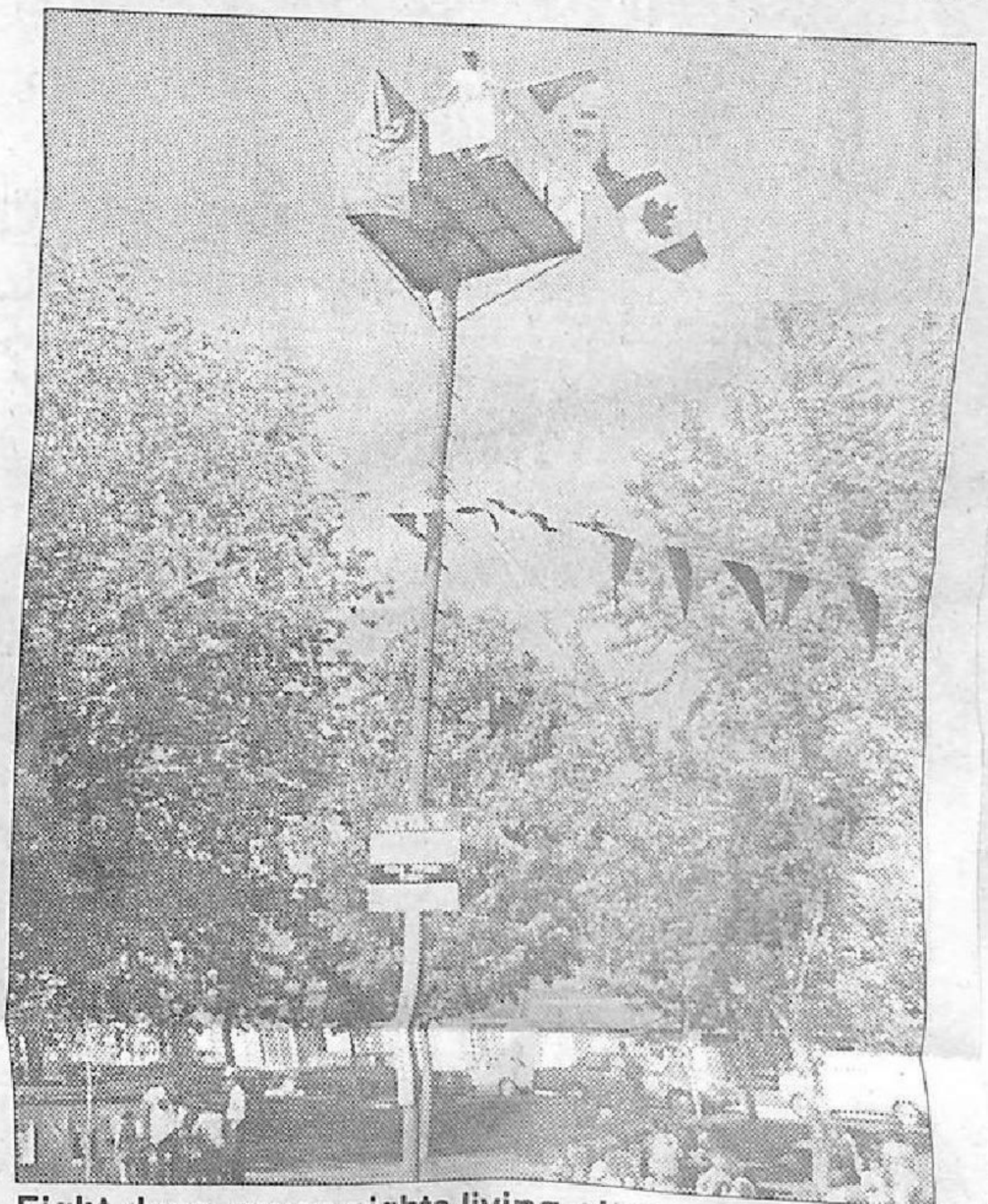
The stunt garnered national newspaper, radio and television coverage.

"It really put the Cystic Fibrosis cause on the map," Dave says with pride. "We raised about \$2,000."

At the end of the eighth day, mad to return to earth, a Trenton news reporter phoned to ask him to stay aloft until he could get there. Dave obliged, descending his his wife and three daughters before being whisked away to a dance at the arena.

The stunt was repeated in 1993 at The Big Apple when Kin Brian Barnes took up his aerial perch overlooking Highway 401.

- Mandy Martin



Eight days, seven nights living atop a pole in Colborne's Victoria Park raised \$2000 for Cystic Fibrosis research in 1973.