

Jim Dills Milton Citizen of the Year



MILTON'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR for 1977, Jim Dills was honored at the Chamber of Commerce annual meeting Saturday evening. President Yvonne Christie, Jim and Shirley Dills are in front of a table full of plaques, gifts and awards presented by speakers representing the community organizations with which he has worked, and four levels of government.

Described as "a man who is very much involved in his community," Champion publisher Jim Dills, Milton's Citizen of the Year for 1977, was fittingly honored by Milton Chamber of Commerce and over 250 guests at the Citizen of the Year dinner Saturday night.

Jim and Shirley Dills are both former Acton residents. Shirley is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Elliott, Bower Ave. Jim is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Dills. They left Acton to live in Milton when Jim became publisher of the Canadian Champion over 20 years ago.

Speakers representing various community organizations on which he has served, representatives of the newspaper industry and speakers from four levels of government joined the crowd in paying tribute to the many contributions Mr. Dills has made to the community over the past quarter of a century, and he was presented with a table-full of plaques, gifts, and letters of congratulations.

The evening also featured a "roast" that provoked tears of laughter throughout the audience and set a lighter tone to the evening that had — until then — been quite serious. Friend and fellow newspaperman Bill Polrier, publisher of The Grimsby Independent, offered the series of humorous sketches and put-down one-liners that poked good-natured fun at the guest of honor.

Chamber of Commerce president Yvonne Christie, who presided over the annual dinner, paid tribute to Jim Dills as "one of Milton's most prominent and gifted citizens" and vice-president Des Mullin told "The Jim Dills Story." He reviewed Jim's service with the Rotary Club, St. Paul's United Church, the parks board and community day, the historical society, Chamber of Commerce and mentioned he was the one who had launched the annual New Year's Eve bell-ringing ceremony in town 12 years ago.

Canadian Community Newspapers Association president Lynn Lashbrook had planned to be present, but was snowbound in Rodney in south-western Ontario. But Ridgeway Dominion publisher Murray Scoyne, a former employee of the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., read his letter of congratulations from the CCNA president.

Mr. Lashbrook offered congratulations from the 550 members of the organization and called it a "worthy and fitting honor." Mr. Scoyne presented a CCNA silver quill award.

plaque, which contained stories about the guest of honor.

Halton MP Dr. Frank Philbrook brought greetings from the federal government in Ottawa and sincere congratulations on the honor bestowed on Mr. Dills. Noting Jim's father, brother and brother-in-law have all been previous Citizens of the Year in Acton, he wondered if the Dills family has a monopoly on citizen honors and jokingly suggested the matter was being studied in the capital.

Minister of Transportation and Communications Jim Snow, the MPP for Oakville and Julian Reed, MPP for Halton-Burlington, joined to present a provincial government plaque signed by Premier William Davis.

Representing Regional Chairman Ric Morrow who was unable to be present, Halton's industrial commissioner Bill Marshall presented a letter from the chairman praising Mr. Dills' service. He also praised the Chamber for its hard work and capability.

The Chamber's Citizen of the Year plaque was presented by Rev. Rod Lewis of Boston and Omagh Presbyterian Churches, the 1976 Citizen of the Year. He said Jim Dills has "contributed in

such a wide scope to this community." "I am overwhelmed and awed by all the kind words," Mr. Dills admitted when it came his turn to speak. He said he appreciated all the kind comments but pointed out an individual accomplishes little, without the co-operation of many people. It has taken a host of friends and community workers to achieve the things for which he was being praised, he said.

The involvement with other publishers was an enjoyable one, he said, and the work in the church has been "a comfort and challenge that refreshes the spirit." He said his involvement has helped to make him aware of the people resources that sustain a community.

He also praised his staff, his brother Dave and his family for their continuing support and sharing. Any honors must be shared with his wife Shirley, he said. "Every involvement has been a rich and rewarding experience... a practical neighborliness."

Later in the evening, the Dills won a spot dance prize, to top off an evening full of honors.

The Legion Auxiliary served the roast beef dinner at Lions Hall.

Snowmobiles bad for crop land

Snowmobiles may have become popular recreational vehicles, but for Ontario farmers they have become a nuisance, says R.W. Irwin of the School of Engineering, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

Professor Irwin says that because their tracks reduce the yield and quality of crops, snowmobiles should not be operated on crop land.

vast open fields of snow invite invasion of private property, frequently without the permission of the farmer. But few people know that snowmobiles affect the life of the crop. For example, if alfalfa

is smothered in the first winter after planting, the yield is decreased on that field as long as the stand remains (3 years).

In some cases, snowmobiles crossing fields fracture and break frozen leaves of hay, pasture plants, and fall wheat, opening the possibility of disease invasion. Snowmobile tracks also compact the snow, increasing the density of the packed snow and destroying its insulating value.

A depth of snow prevents the deep penetration of frost, says Professor Irwin. The increased density and increase in relative water content encourages frost penetration.

"The additional water content causes ice to form which in turn may smother alfalfa or fall wheat. It may also cause plant roots to separate through frost heaving."

Compacted snow also creates paths for water which may add to existing soil erosion problems.

Obituary

Robert Williamson Eramosa farmer

Longtime Eramosa farmer Robert John Williamson passed away suddenly at St. Joseph's hospital in Guelph yesterday. He was in his 73rd year.

Mr. Williamson farmed for many years before moving to Guelph where he later worked for the Wellington Board of Education.

He was the husband of Edna (formerly Nellis) and is survived by one daughter Julia (Mrs. Jack Louch) of Guelph and one son Robert of Mitchell, eight grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

He is also survived by sisters Joan (Mrs. Albert Gamble) of Hespeler, Mrs. Margaret Fallis and Elizabeth (Mrs. Fred Gregory) of Bradford and Muriel (Mrs. Don Semple) of Phoenix, Arizona.

The Rev. Keith Turner of Norfolk St. United Church in Guelph will conduct the funeral from the Wall Custance Funeral Home, Guelph, with burial in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Photo contest for Grand Watershed

Through the Conservation For Communities Program, held on weekends at the three nature centres in the Grand River watershed, the Grand River Conservation Authority is sponsoring a Conservation Photography Contest.

The contest, open to amateur photographers, is divided into the two categories of Black and White prints and Color prints. The challenging part of the contest is the subject matter.

Being sponsored by the Conservation Authority, all photos must deal with some aspect of water as a natural resource of the Grand River basin.

All entries must be received by May 24, 1978, as this will allow for the judging of the photos in time for the Photographic Weekend of May 27 and 28.

Basic stipulations for the photo subject entries are that they be taken after Jan. 1, 1977

and be of subjects within the boundaries of the Grand River watershed. Entries are limited to three prints in each of the two classes per photographer (again amateurs only) and selected entries will be retained by the Conservation Authority for publicly or display use.

Prizes will be awarded. To enter the contest deliver or mail your photo to the nature centre nearest you at one of the following addresses:

Taquanyah Nature Centre, R.R.4, Cayuga; Grand River Conservation Authority Administration Centre, 400 Clyde Rd., Cambridge (G) (519)621-2761.

Council backs death penalty

Without a word, Halton Hills council endorsed the death penalty for capital murder.

They passed the minutes of the administration committee, in which the recommendation was made last week, without any discussion.



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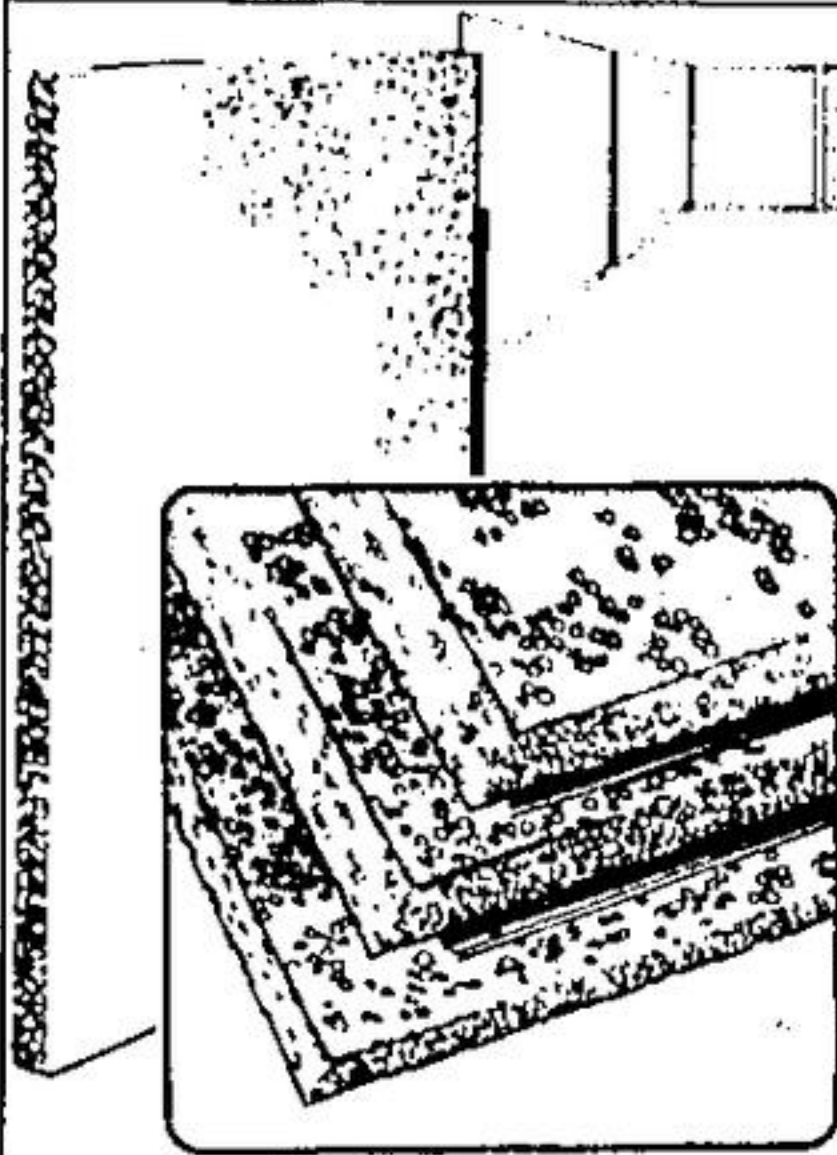
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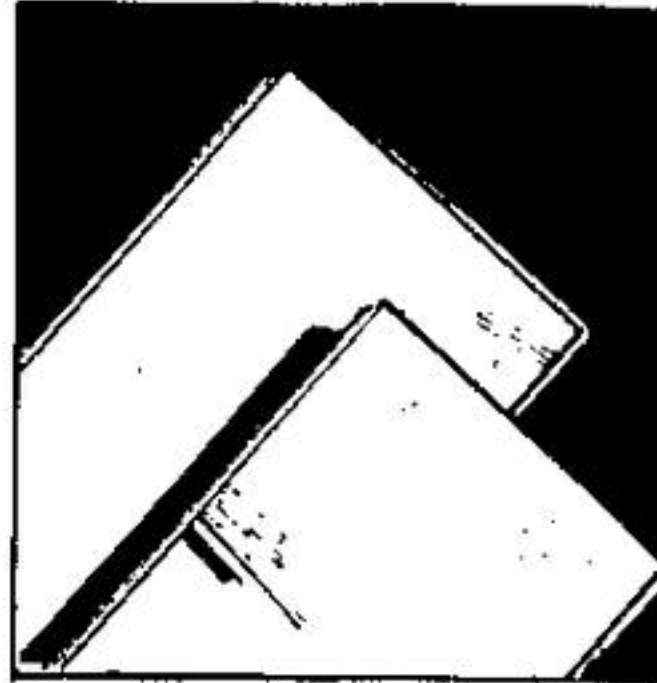
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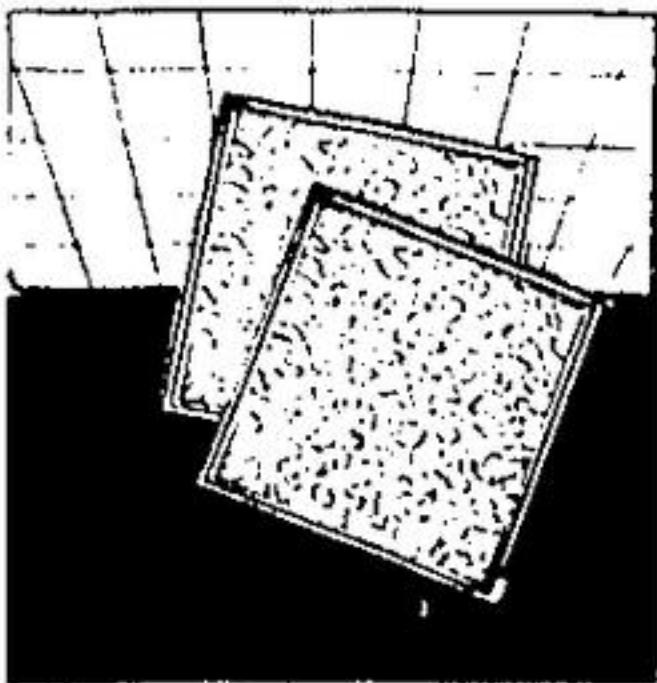
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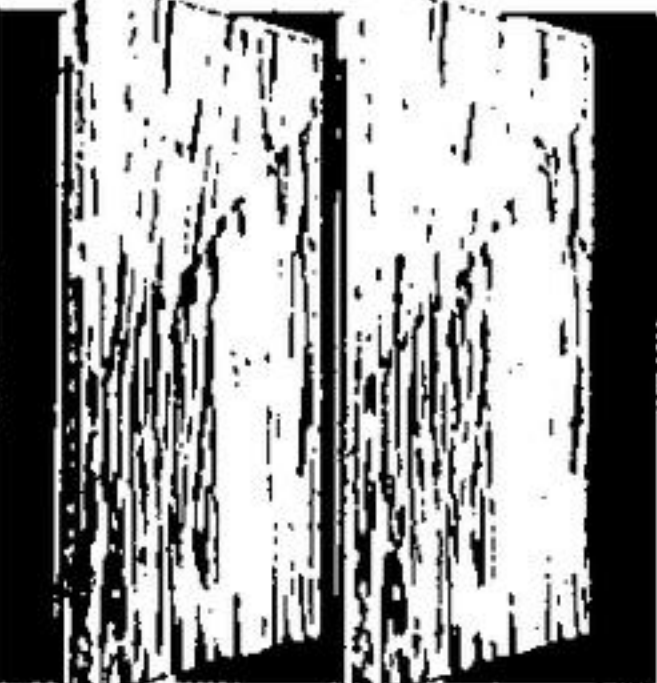
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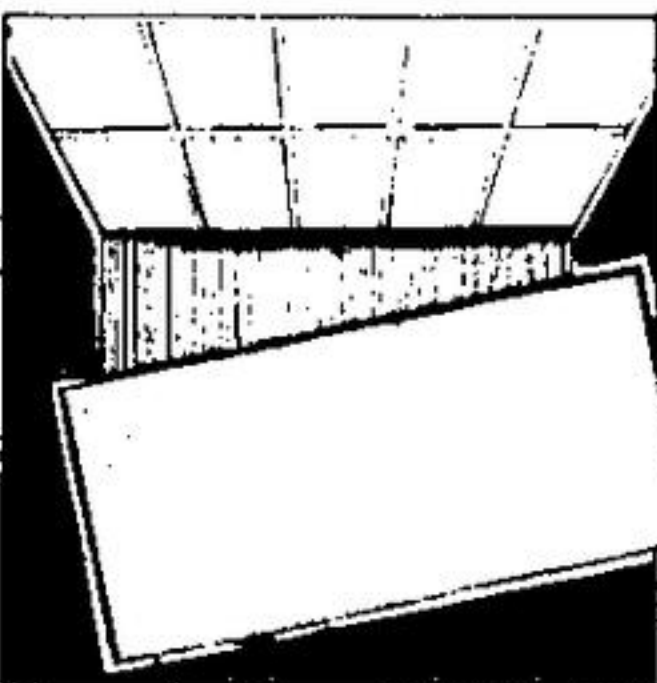
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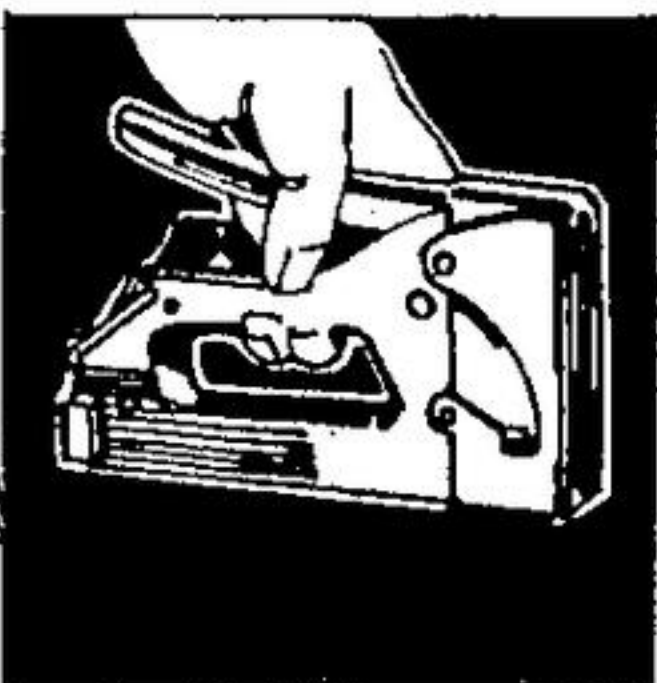
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