

# Feedback Canada offers community garden plots

The Ontario Ministry of Health has granted Canada Feed the Children/Feedback Canada Community Gardens Program \$10,000 to service two community garden plots.

One garden is in Burlington (Appleby Line and Upper Middle Rd.) and one in Georgetown (Ninth Line south of the 10th Sideroad). The Burlington land has been donated by Monarch Construction and the Georgetown property by Les Thatcher.

Feedback Canada is a Halton Hills-based project supported by Canadian Feed The Children of Toronto. It focuses on supplying fresh produce to emergency food outlets including missions, soup kitchens, shelters and food-banks.

The organization takes surplus or "sub-grade" food from producers, grocery stores, farmer's markets, pick your own operations. Then staff, volunteers and food aid recipients then assemble harvesting days to glean over fields, and delivery crews to distribute the food to the various emergency food outlets.

Charitable receipts can be given to farmers for fair market value of crops turned over to charity. This makes an economically viable alternative to unfair market values, and an incentive for growers to not discard or plow under much needed goods.

In our first year of operation Feedback has been able to provide over 800,000 lbs. of surplus food to over 80 emergency food outlets in some 65 Ontario communities. This has been a win-win situation for both donors and those receiving the fresh nutritious food. On

an environmental aspect 1992 estimates show the group has diverted close to 300,000 lbs. of food and unwanted products from reaching our local landfills.

This year Feedback will be focusing its efforts on two community garden plots. This is where the public can take on their own gardening plot and/or work on our larger shared gardens. All food from the large gardens will be donated to emergency food outlets.

Feedback is also encouraging those with their own plots to donate a yield portion to charity. This is a tradition of the "Diggers" in 14th century England, when a percentage of food grown was given to those less fortunate. Once harvested, the food is delivered directly to food outlets.

The land, water, and tools are provided free of charge to gardeners, and if requested, we can provide seed, and mulch.

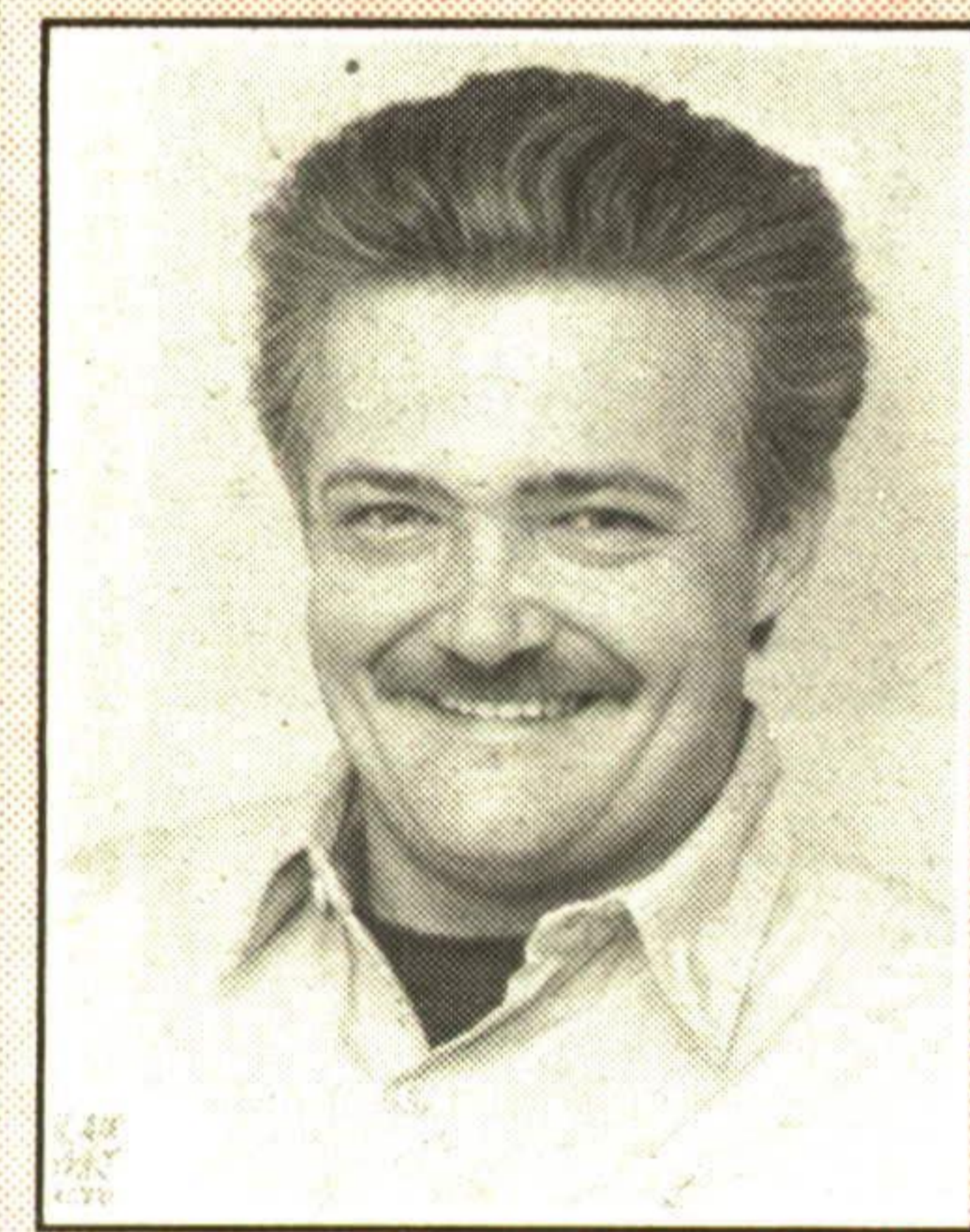
Feedback will also host organic gardening, nutrition, and various workshops if there is an interest. Everything is free of charge as Canada Feed the Children and the Ontario Ministry of Health have kindly supported Feedback.

Anyone can participate! Feedback Canada Community Gardens offer an opportunity to participate in growing food for one's self as well as food for others who are unable to participate.

If you are interested please call Mary Tiessen, farm manager, Feedback Canada, 416-873-9822, or Sherilyn Kirkpatrick, 416-873-4607.



Mary Tiessen, farm manager for Feedback Canada, received a cheque for \$10,000 from MPP Noel Duignan last week. The money will help support the community garden in Georgetown and Burlington.

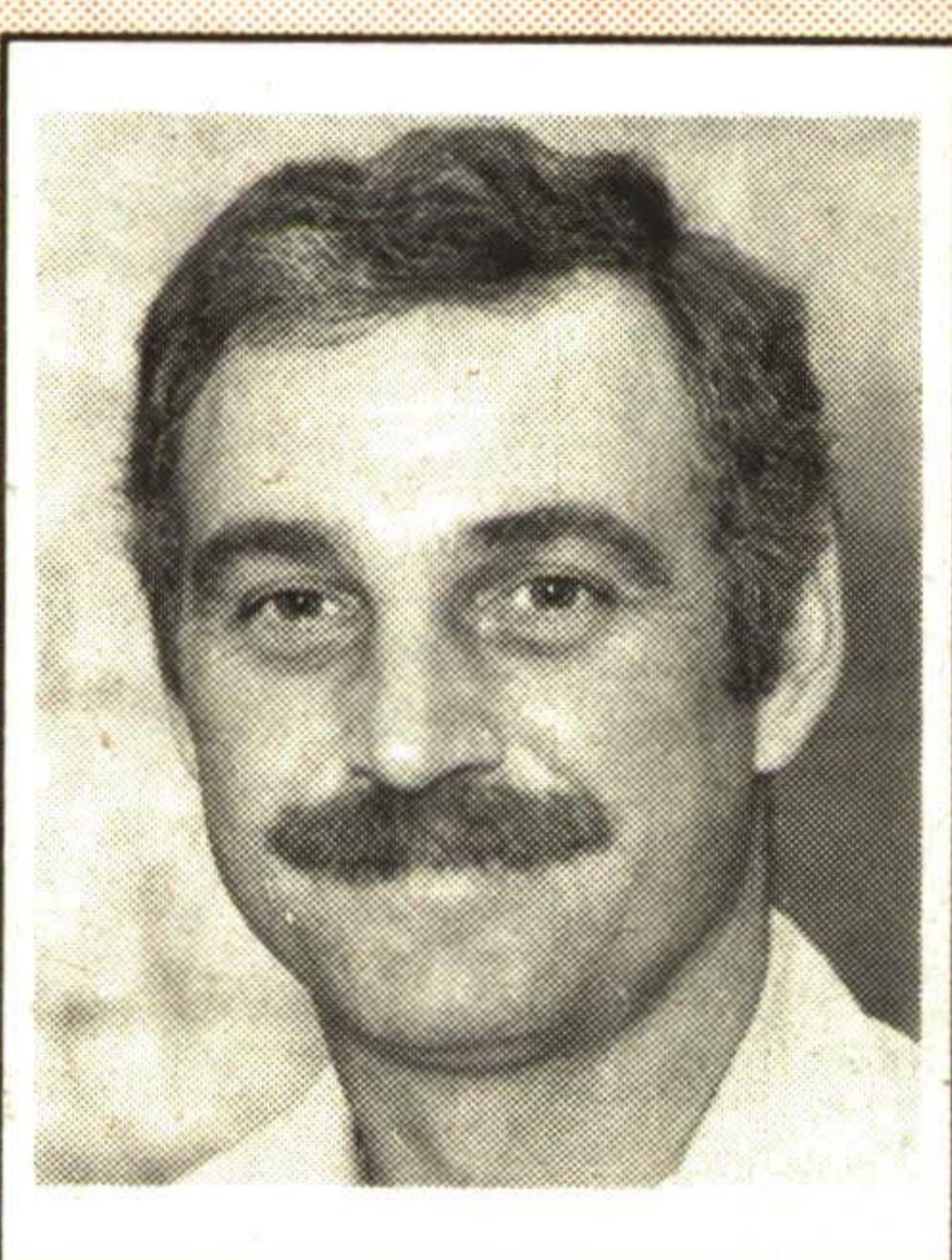


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