

# Symmes honored with Corps d'Elite Award

By **LISA TALLYN**  
Staff writer

Ric Symmes of Halton Hills was among five Ontario residents presented with the Corps d'Elite award in a ceremony at Queen's Park November 15 in recognition of their contributions to the development of recreation in the province.

Symmes, who lives in Terra Cotta, was recognized for his work with the Boy Scouts, the Ontario Federation of Naturalists and other organizations.

Symmes said he was surprised when he received the call requesting his presence at Queen's Park Monday.

The citations were presented by Minister of Culture, Tourism and Recreation Anne Swarbrick. Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Henry Jackman was also on hand.

Swarbrick said the five people had helped "raise Ontario's recreation industry to a new level of excellence."

"The innovativeness and hard work of these five individuals, along with everyone involved, has made the recreation industry more accessible to all Ontarians," said Swarbrick.

"I originally became involved in scouting because of my children," said Symmes. He joined as an assistant cub master in 1979 and over the next 10 years held increasingly responsible positions includ-

ing scout leader for the 1st Glen Williams troop, and venturer and rover adviser.

In 1987 Symmes served as vice-president of the Ontario Council of Scouts Canada and from 1990 to 1993 he was president of the council.

During his tenure as president Symmes introduced a quality management process for the Ontario council which has since been adopted in England and Sweden.

Symmes is currently a member of Scout's National Council Management Task Force, which is reviewing the national organization's structure and mandate.

Symmes is also a committed environmentalist.

"I lead canoe trips mostly on northern Ontario rivers where people can see the environmental issues we talk about. By seeing it they can understand what is happening and then hopefully become active (and do something about it)," said Symmes.

From 1976 to 1981 he served as the chairman of the Sierra Club of Ontario. In that role he developed environmental policies.

"I believe that if you have a talent in an area you should share it in some way with your community," said Symmes.

When Symmes is not volunteering he is working as a consultant in environmental policy, advising organizations such as Ontario Hydro.

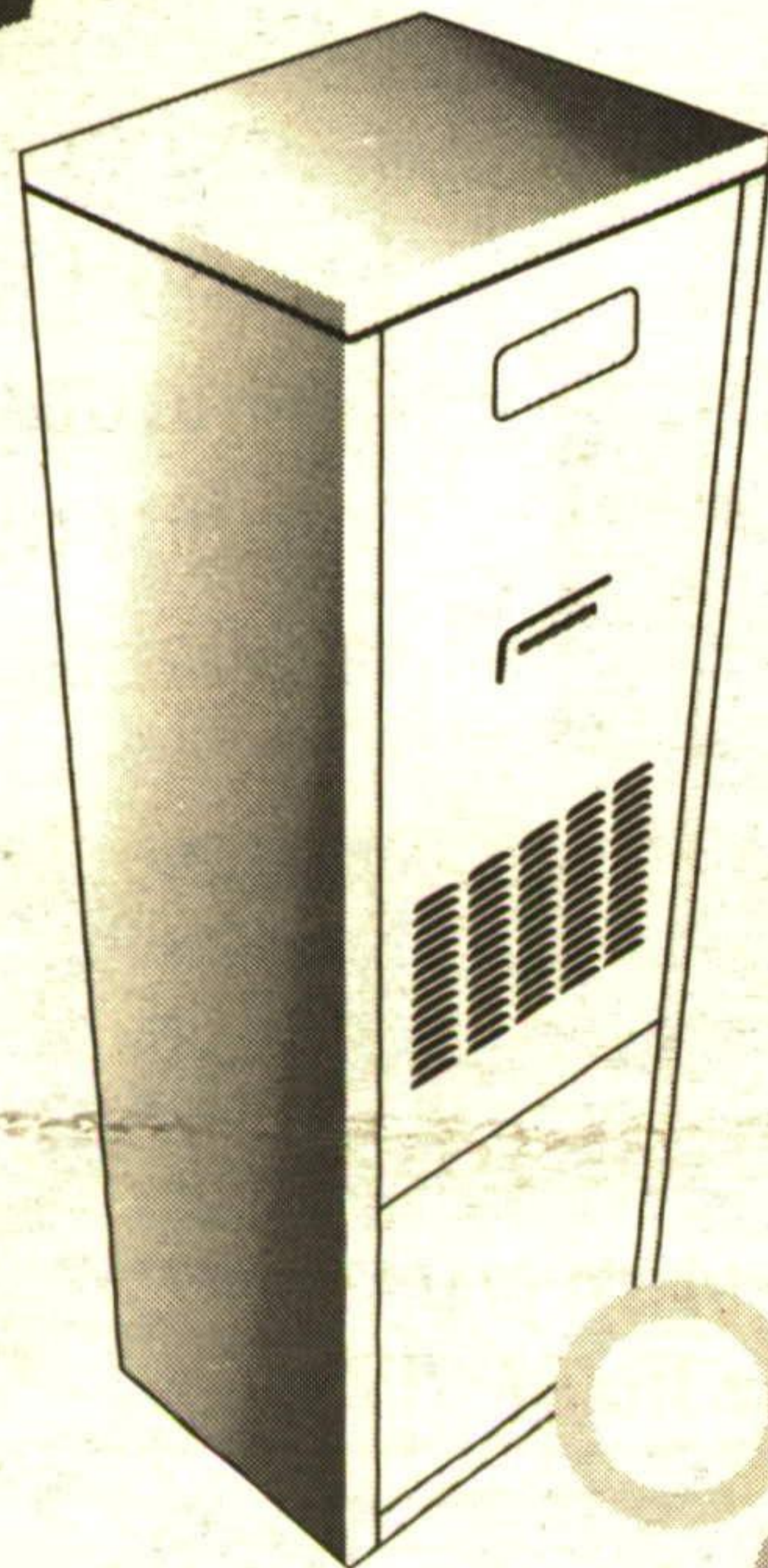


Local resident Ric Symmes was presented with the Corps d'Elite Award at a ceremony at Queen's Park Monday. Symmes received the award in recognition of his contribution to the development of recreation in the province.

From left; Ontario Minister of Culture, Tourism and Recreation Anne Swarbrick presented Symmes with the award while the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario The Honorable Henry Jackman looked on.

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