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Steve Donahue is the 'Consummate Speaker'

By **JANET BAINE**
 Staff writer

A Limehouse resident is proudly sharing the limelight with Maggie Thatcher and Tom Wolfe, since all three won a 1994 consummate speaker award.

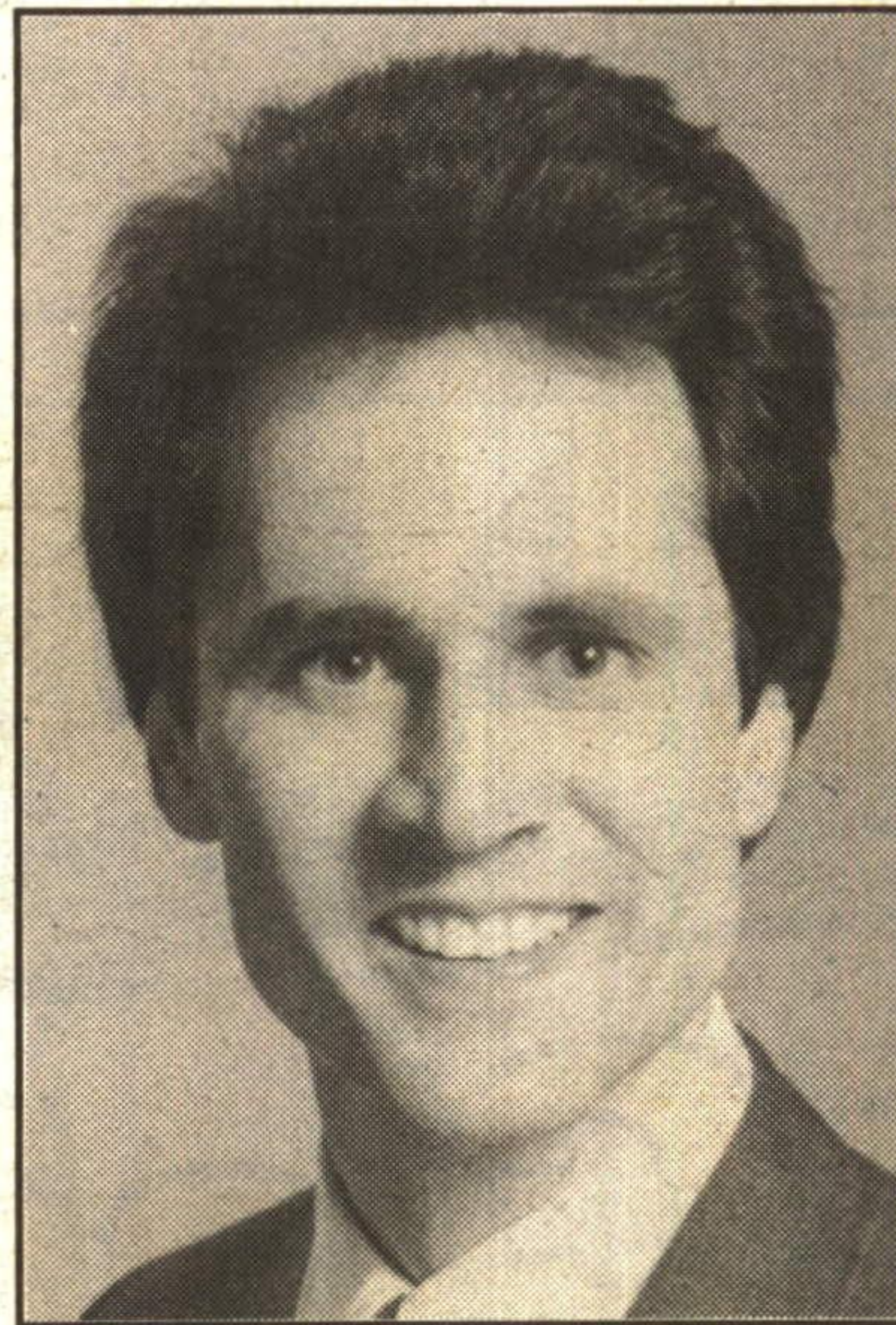
Steve Donahue has been a professional speaker for five years and is delighted that he was selected as one of 26 consummate speakers around the world. The award is sponsored by a trade magazine called Sharing Ideas, which is read by people in the speaking industry. Donahue was selected for the award by Speakers Bureau International, a company which acts as his agent.

"It's a tremendous honor. My speaker colleagues are calling me up and congratulating me," he said.

Donahue said he hopes this will be a boon to his business, but adds that he is already kept busy with about 100 speaking engagements annually. He started out doing stand-up comedy at amateur nights in Toronto, and five years ago began his professional speaking

career talking about humor in the workplace. But he found he wasn't getting much work when the recession hit, so he revised his talks to teach people, using humorous stories, about team building and managing change.

"Employees are told to work smarter, but really they have to work a lot harder," he said. "I do two to three speeches a week and I'm very fully employed. There are plenty of people in this field who are really hurting now. Companies are hurting so bad, morale is so low, people are being asked to do un-



STEVE DONAHUE

believable things."

Donahue has heard some sad stories about companies which have downsized. At one company, employees found it was time to clear off their desks and join the unemployment line when they arrived one morning and attempted to log onto their computer. A message on the screen said if their access was no longer available, they were being laid

off. Donahue said he enjoys telling stories rather than jokes, so being a professional speaker suits him better than being a comedian. He also said he has been fortunate to have a variety of life experiences, which means he has some interesting tales to tell.

"Today's clients are very demanding. They want twice as much information in half the time. They want it to be thoroughly entertaining and motivational," he said.

Donahue speaks to a variety of business, government and other groups across Canada. He has been hired by Pioneer Hi-Bred of Georgetown to speak in the middle of a field of canola in Saskatchewan this week. He'll talk to farmers, scientists and agricultural extension officers about a new genetic strain that can tolerate a type of herbicide. While he said this presentation is really about change, he will have to make himself into a temporary expert and get to know his topic.

Donahue said that the laughter just doesn't stop at his presentations and sometimes he has to put down the microphone to let people laugh. But he also tells touching stories, always to make a point.

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 Thompson Road Arena, Milton

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Novice	10:20 to 11:30 a.m.	Pee wee	3:40 to 4:50 p.m.
Minor Atom	11:40 a.m. to 12:50	Minor Bantam	5:00 to 6:10 p.m.
Atom	1:00 to 2:10 p.m.	Bantam	6:20 to 7:35 p.m.

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Turf Tips

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COPING WITH WATER RESTRICTIONS

Well it's that time of year again—even numbered houses water on even days, and odd numbered houses water on odd days! Water restrictions can be frustrating. However, if you water correctly, watering your lawn every day is not always a silver lining.

When a lawn requires water, it takes on a dark haze with a silvery tinge. If you walk on a lawn with these dark patches, your footprints will be visible. Your lawn needs 3 to 4 cm (1 to 1-1/2 inches) of water weekly. Deep, heavy waterings are better than light sprinklings. Watering 2-3 times per week, deeply, will encourage strong, healthy roots. Light waterings encourage shallow, weak roots and promote weed grass infestations. To accurately measure the amount of water you are applying to your lawn, place a straight sided container within the spread of your sprinkler to gather the sprinklings. Time how long it takes to collect 3/4" of water. Then, twice weekly, water your lawn for this time period.

Early morning is the best time to water. Midday watering during hot, dry weather, can waste water, since much of the water evaporates. However, if the lawn shows dark or orange patches due to drought, water it immediately regardless of the time of day. Evening watering promotes the spread of disease. If you must water later in the day or early evening, because it is the only time available, shut your sprinkler off in time to allow your lawn to dry before the sun goes down (approximately 7 to 7:30 p.m.).

NEXT WEEK:
 DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT TOO LATE

Weed Man
 WE CARE FOR YOUR LAWN

This is a weekly lawn care column.
 For additional information contact Duncan or Eileen

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