

Milton Heritage Awards

(continued from page 1)

Margaret Tilt, Hilary Rigo, and Julia Soderholm. Absent was Brendan Prior.

Also honoured in the ceremony were the Ebenezer Cemetery Board for the tremendous undertaking of restoring Ebenezer Cemetery (established in 1831), and St. David's Presbyterian Church of Campbellville in honour of the \$450,000 addition that was recently built onto the existing historical church. Cindy Lunau and John Simpson accepted the award from MP Julian Reed on behalf of the Ebenezer Cemetery Board, while Reverend Glen Soderholm and Blair Harrison accepted the Award for St. David's Presbyterian Church from Mayor Gord Krantz.

Each award given at the ceremony consisted of a plaque mounted on a large piece of stone from the Bruce Street School which stood for 115 years before being demolished in 1974. Local councillor at that time Brad Clements, hauled the stone away for preservation, and provides it to the Milton Historical Society to use for the base of their awards.

It only seemed fitting that each of the recipients honoured for their work in preserving the area's heritage took a piece of local heritage home with them that day.



PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

HISTORY AWARD - On behalf of the Ebenezer Cemetery Board, Cindy Lunau and John Simpson accept a Heritage Award recognizing the Board's restoration of the 1831 cemetery from MP Julian Reed, pictured left, at the Milton Historical Society Awards on February 20th. Other Cemetery Board members include Neil Darby, Chairman; Eli Daigle, Secretary Treasurer; Garnet Norrish and Gordon Diamond. Also serving on the Board during the project were Keith Anderson and Richard Anderson. The Anderson family, (Keith, Richard, and Sharon) have also served as caretakers of the cemetery for many years.

Don't Forget!

Brookville Minor Baseball Association is holding its sign up on Saturday, March 4th at Brookville Hall from 10 a.m to 4 p.m. Please bring Birth Certificate. For more information, call Janet Inglis at 905-854-2566.



Ireland of the Welcomes

BY JUNE BEENY
SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

They say in Ireland there are no strangers, only friends you haven't met.

In spite of its new nickname - "the Celtic Tiger," referring to the remarkable economic boom the country is experiencing, there is still an aura of peace and tranquility about this lush and magical island. But don't wait too long to visit!

Although you can still see fields where men are stoking hay, the neighbour probably has the latest high tech machinery. You will be charmed by the scene of a local riding on a donkey cart, laden with milk cans and peat for the fire, however, the car passing him is most likely a Mercedes!

Rest assured, the beauty is timeless and history has forever shaped the land. Ireland is only 300 miles long and about half as wide, yet within this small area is a variety of landscape and experience which changes around every bend in the road. From the sophistication of Dublin, to the revitalized cities of Belfast and Derry, ancient ruins, soft mountains and rugged landscapes, history and lively pubs, gentle farming country and inland lakes are yours to enjoy. Marvel at the archaeological wonders of The Burren on the west coast, Giant's Causeway on the North, the spectacular beauty of the Antrim Coast and the Dingle Peninsula. Combine all this with the unpretentious and friendly nature of the Irish and you'll understand why many visitors keep going back.

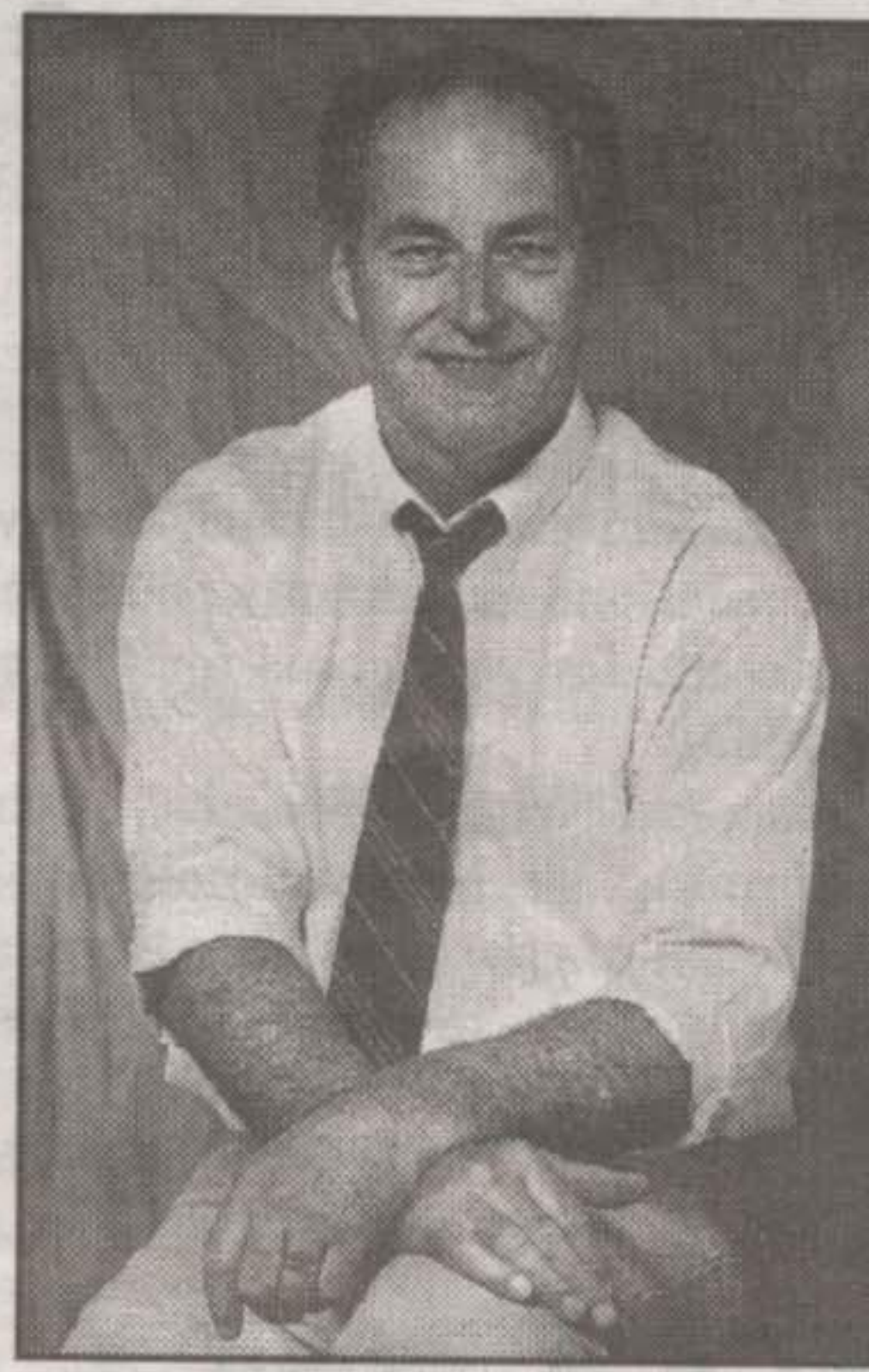
It can best be described in the story of the tourists who stopped at a local pub. All the tables were filled, but, as is the custom in Ireland, they found a table with one young Irishman sitting at it and asked if they could join him.

"I've been waitin' for ye!" he exclaimed.

Queen's Park Report

with

Ted Chudleigh, M.P.P. - Halton



Myths are difficult to shake.

They provide a simple focus on a problem. Myths often arise because they contain a kernel of truth. However, problems are by their very nature complicated. If a problem had a simple solution that solution would be implemented and the problem would no longer exist.

The myth of current high gasoline prices is that they are caused by high taxation. The truth is the provincial government has not raised gas taxes since 1992. Federal taxes have not changed in this recent run up of prices except for the additional GST charged as prices rise.

The increased GST is that kernel of truth that anchors the myth, but would account for less than two cents of the price increase. Prices have increased because the world price of the commodity, oil, has gone from \$12 to \$30 U.S. per barrel.

Myths are similarly in evidence when it comes to property taxes. While many believe property taxes are rising, the truth is most municipalities have done a good job keeping taxes down. More than 85 per cent of municipalities in Ontario held the line or reduced property taxes for homeowners in 1999.

Municipalities were able to make the reductions largely because the provincial government reduced the education portion of property taxes by 10 per cent. A further 10 per cent reduction will be phased in over the next four years.

It's important to remember this is not a cut in education funding. The province is paying for education costs from other sources so the requirement for funds from local taxes is reduced and can be passed on to property tax payers.

In fact about 50 per cent of municipalities, often due to restructuring, were able to reduce their local portion of property taxes as well.

However, not all municipalities have passed the provincial reductions on to local property tax payers. Not all municipalities have held the line on their local portion of property taxes. As a result some taxpayers have not enjoyed the benefit of the provincial education tax cut.

This is not acceptable. Local councils that have not reduced taxes should face some tough questions.

The Ontario government took responsibility for setting uniform education tax rates in 1997 following years of escalating education costs and related property tax increases. In the 10 years prior to education tax reform, school board spending had increased by 82 per cent and property taxes had increased by more than 120 per cent.

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