

What Really Matters

in Guelph/Eramosa

Township

with

Councillor Alan McDonald



I heard something on a radio show the other day that made me laugh.

A politician in Toronto had spoken out on limiting garbage bags at curbside pick up as a way to address their growing garbage problem. What made me laugh was an opinion expressed by one of the talk show hosts relating to the politicians' timing. The host thought the politician to be miscalculating their timing to suggest such a strong opinion about garbage. The host suggested that the politician should have waffled on the subject until after re-election, instead of making a bunch of their constituents mad and jeopardizing a positive outcome.

I think any politician that would consider such a tactic to be generally dishonest. Prior to a municipal election is the absolute best time we get to hear a political platform. Each candidate is called upon to express their moral, philosophical, priority, and specific issue opinions. It's like a job interview grand mal.

Unfortunately, here in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa, we may not receive that information. As I write this article only three of the five spots are filled. Likely, in the days leading up to Friday the 13th (that is this October for those of you who do not follow politics) two persons will pay their 100 per cent refundable \$100 and be acclaimed councillors of the Township of Guelph Eramosa. And that is who we will get.

It is a shame. Are there not any of you out there that could use an extra \$8-\$12,000 a year? Are there no university students looking for a part time job while you go to school? Are there no moms that think this might suit them? What about someone from Ward One; does anyone live there? Perhaps you're worried about your business?

Did you know that a large portion of the salary is income tax exempt? Did you know that just the fact that you ran in the election will impress a prospective employer reviewing your resumé? How come the split in society is 50 per cent male to 50 per cent female yet that fact is

not reflected at the council chamber?

If we had two or three candidates seeking election for each of the five positions, I as a constituent would ask:

1. What measures will you implement to ensure property tax rates are maintained or reduced, while maintaining current service levels and ensuring reserves and reserve funds are managed to yield optimum return, both when applied and while being secured?
2. What do you consider to be the three top issues within our township and under municipal jurisdiction for each of health, safety, environment?
3. What capital expenditures do you propose for each of the next five years?
4. At what rate do you feel farm land should be severed to allow for development?
5. Are you in favor of a multiple committee structure to assist council with local issues, or against?
6. What do you think we should do with our garbage?
7. Do you think downtown Rockwood should receive extra tax dollars to attract tourism?
8. Why do you want to be a Councillor/Mayor?

Come on, all you fence sitters! Get off your duffs and throw your hundred dollars into the pot. Heck all you need is two per cent of the votes to get your money back. That's like 70 people. Any one of you can solicit 70 people to vote for you!

And to boot, I am sure there are people out there that would give a hundred bucks for someone who was serious about it; just to stir it up a little.

From the election you will gain skills such as people, public speaking, and social interaction. You will learn about the issues around you that people really care about.

If you're lucky enough to be elected you will gain three years of experience at being an executive director of a corporation with almost six million dollars total revenue per year.

P.S. Please don't declare in Ward Four. Even if you do live in Ward Four you are allowed to declare in any ward you want!

Contact Alan McDonald at 519-856-1167
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MERCEDES BENZ FOR G.E.F.D.

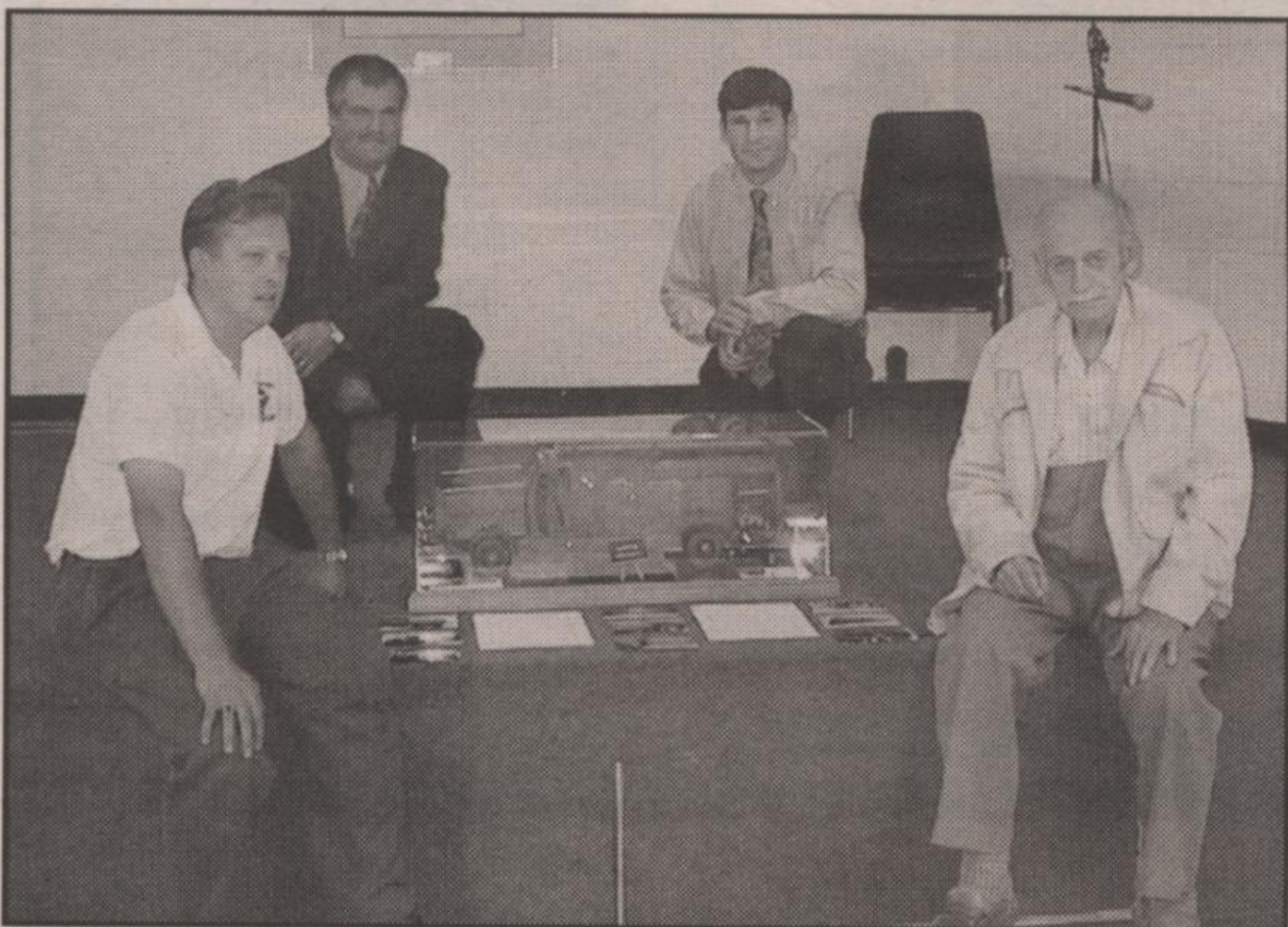


PHOTO BY DEBORAH QUAIL

On September 11, 2000, Max Storey, a resident of Guelph/Eramosa, presented a replica Mercedes Benz fire truck to the Township of Guelph/Eramosa Fire Department. The truck, which was built as a circa 1942 fire service vehicle, was obtained at auction by Storey approximately 20 years ago. Back, left to right, Deputy Fire Chief Tony Van Dam and Councillor Alan McDonald; front, left to right, Mayor Dave Adsett and Max Storey.

WHEN ONCE WAS

"Recent paintings and assemblages" by Rockwood artist Paul Morin are on display at the Zero Gravity Gallery in Guelph until October 10, 2000. *when Once was* is described by the artist: "As contemporary artifacts begin to decompose, their aesthetic takes on a more organic feel. Eventually, the incredible force of nature begins to reclaim them. The departure point for this body of work came from observations made exploring abandoned factories. The unifying quality of rust as it blends both colour and shape illustrates this process of transformation. These are studies of what once was."

Gallery hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 519-837-2653 for further information.

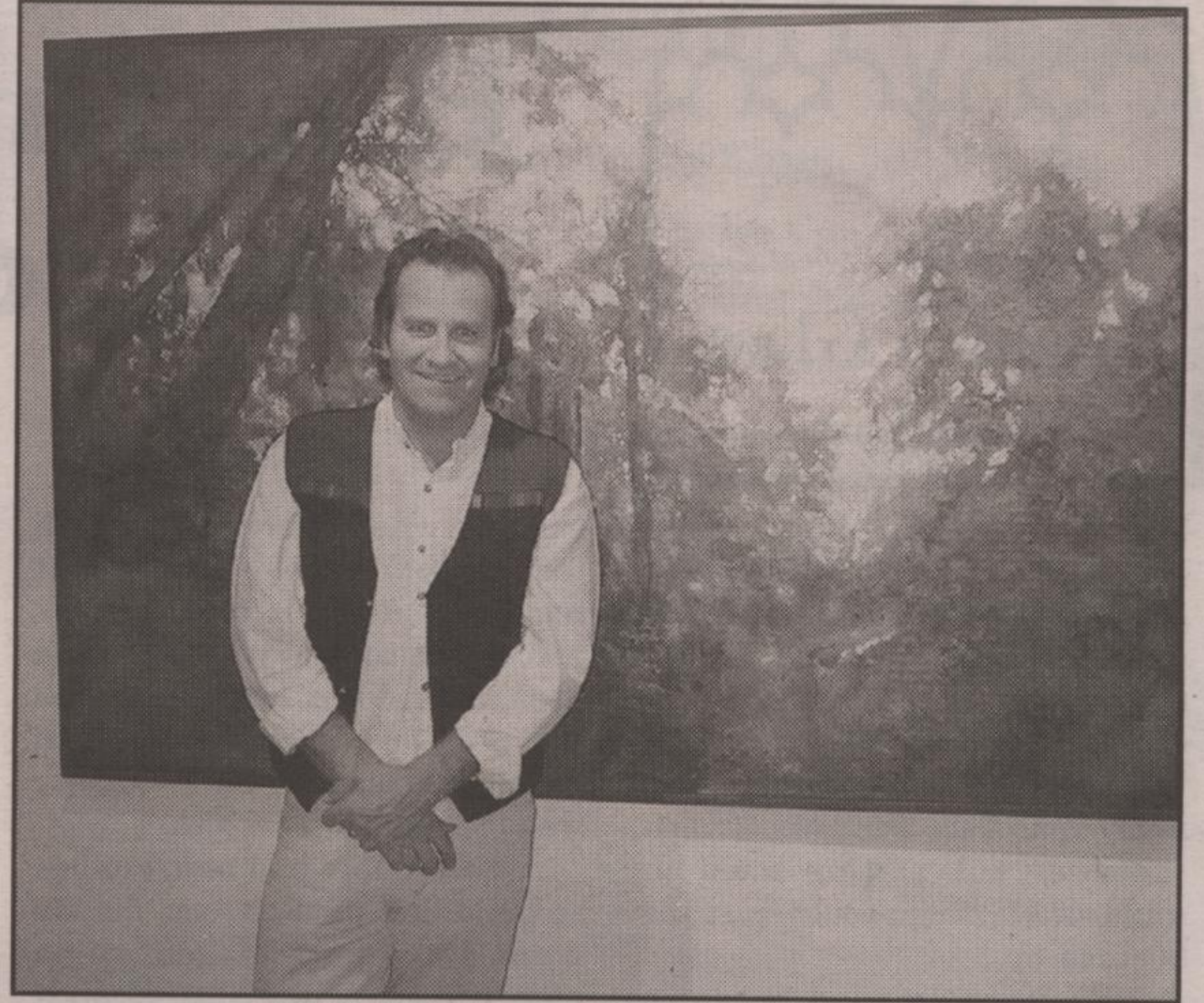


PHOTO BY DEBORAH QUAIL

LOCAL WORDS

Town Crier Kit Bresnehan and Bagpiper Don Gordon started the proceedings for the Eden Mills Writers' Festival in September. Patrons enjoyed music by the Village Ensemble at The Bandstand, an appetizing food court, a wealth of books in the Publishers' Way and a superb compliment of readings by adults' and children's authors. As usual, book signings were a much sought-after part of the day.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH QUAIL

Eden Mills circa 1892
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