

Chudleigh motion passes House

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh's motion calling for a program to extend permanent funding for environmental land purchases in Ontario was supported by MPPs from all three parties and successfully passed the Ontario Legislature last Thursday, October 28.

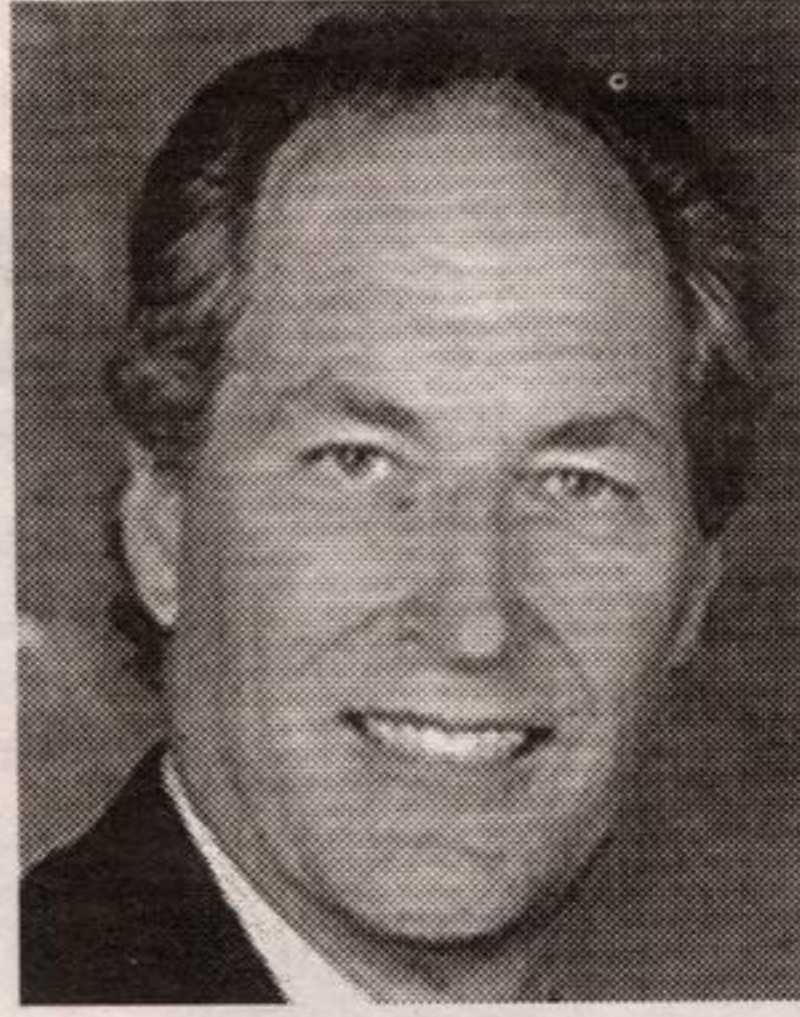
The motion is not binding on the government but the support for it indicates future legislation could be forth coming.

"I'm calling on MPPs of every political stripe to support this motion, to reach out to the future, and help ensure environmentally sensitive and significant lands are purchased for public use by generations of Ontarians yet to be born," said Chudleigh. "Our service to Ontarians will be judged by the legacy we leave them. Let us leave them a commitment to environmental protection. Let us leave them public access to Ontario's finest and most beautiful open spaces."

In the last several years there has been a patchwork of programs used to finance purchases of environmentally significant land. These programs include: The Natural Areas Protection Program (NAPP), the Ontario Parks Legacy Program (OPL), the Community Conservancy

Program (CCP) and the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV).

The current Ecological Land Acquisition Program (ELAP) was conceived as an enhancement to existing land acquisition programs in keeping with the goals of Ontario's Living Legacy, a comprehensive natural heritage program announced in November, 2000. ELAP has been used in those areas where approved provincial plans already exist. ELAP has been extended from its expected end date of March



Ted Chudleigh

31, 2004 only to cover current projects underway in the Rouge River Valley and

the Lynde Marsh.

"The Government of Ontario needs to demonstrate a commitment to public ownership of these lands," said Mr. Chudleigh. "By making these purchases through partner organizations we ensure the land is managed properly, acquisition plans are in place for future purchases, and roles and responsibilities of those involved are clearly spelt out."

"I fully expect that while this program needs to be made permanent, it should be reviewed at various intervals at several levels, including funding, partnership arrangements, and property acquisition plans and priorities."

Jean Williams, Chair of Conservation Halton, one of seven Conservation Authorities that manage 70% of the parks along the Niagara Escarpment supported the motion.

"It will be difficult if not impossible to acquire new properties without the help of the Province. Conservation Halton strongly supports Chudleigh's motion that a land acquisition program be introduced to ensure that these sensitive lands can be purchased to fulfill the objectives of the Niagara Escarpment Plan," Ms. Williams said.

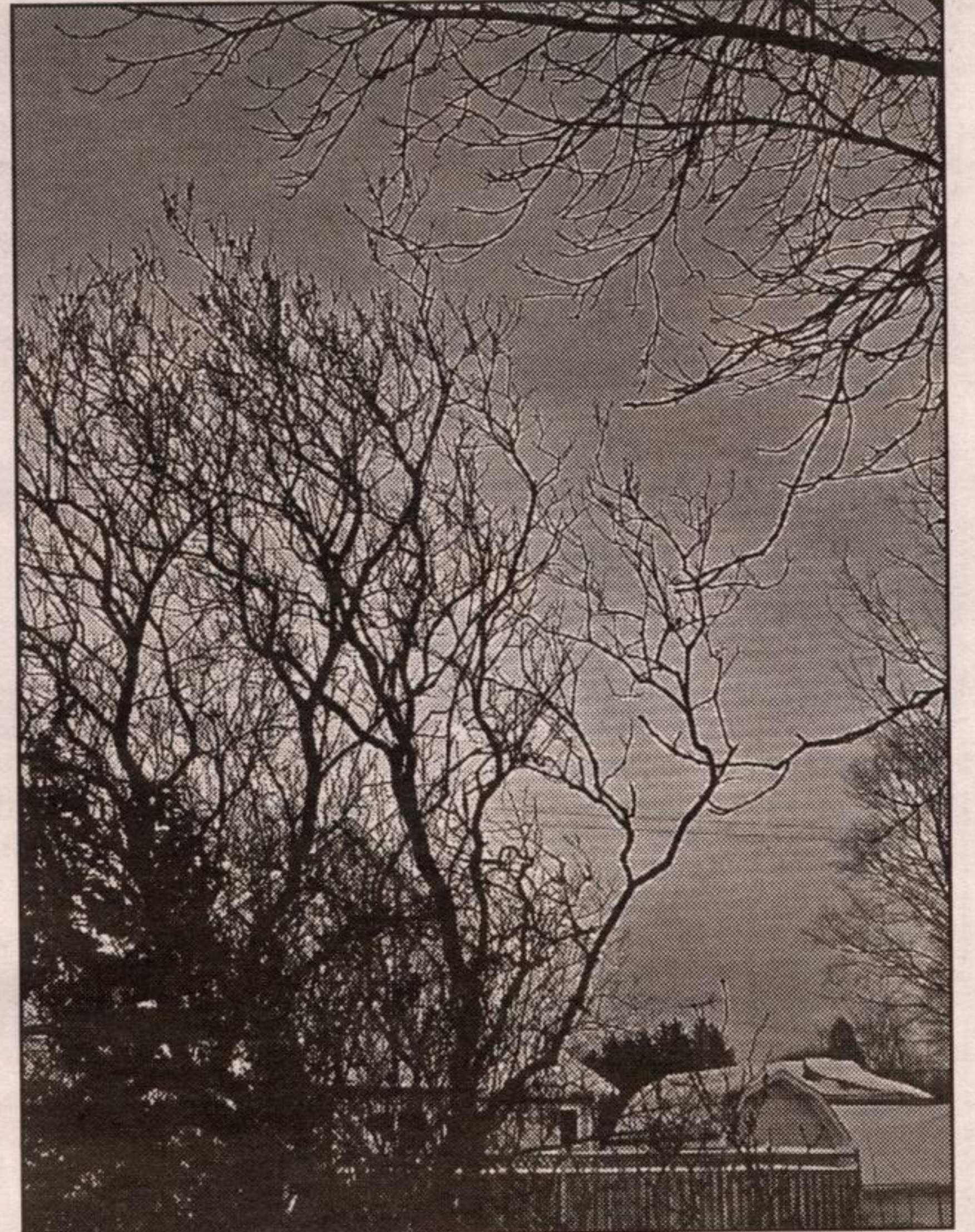
Workplace Symposium

Fifty-two representatives from Halton workplaces joined Regional Councillor Rick Craven and Halton Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Bob Nosal at the 'Practical Solutions for Your Workplace' symposium hosted by the Halton Region Health Department.

'Practical Solutions for Your Workplace' is to provide workplace decision-makers, human resource professionals and occupational health practitioners, the opportunity to learn about the benefits that workplace health programs can bring to employees and their organizations.

"The investment employers make in workplace health programs not only benefits their organization, but is an investment in their employees and in the Halton community," said Councillor Rick Craven.

Dr. John Yardley, Director of Brock University's Workplace Health Research Unit delivered the keynote presentation which, identified the need to align human resource management with business goals and objectives. Dr. Yardley also provided solutions for improving human resource management, which has been shown to lead to an improvement in productivity in the workplace.



SUNSET SPLENDOR: A crisp winter night and a bright full moon create magnificent sunsets like this one. Danielle McIsaac photo

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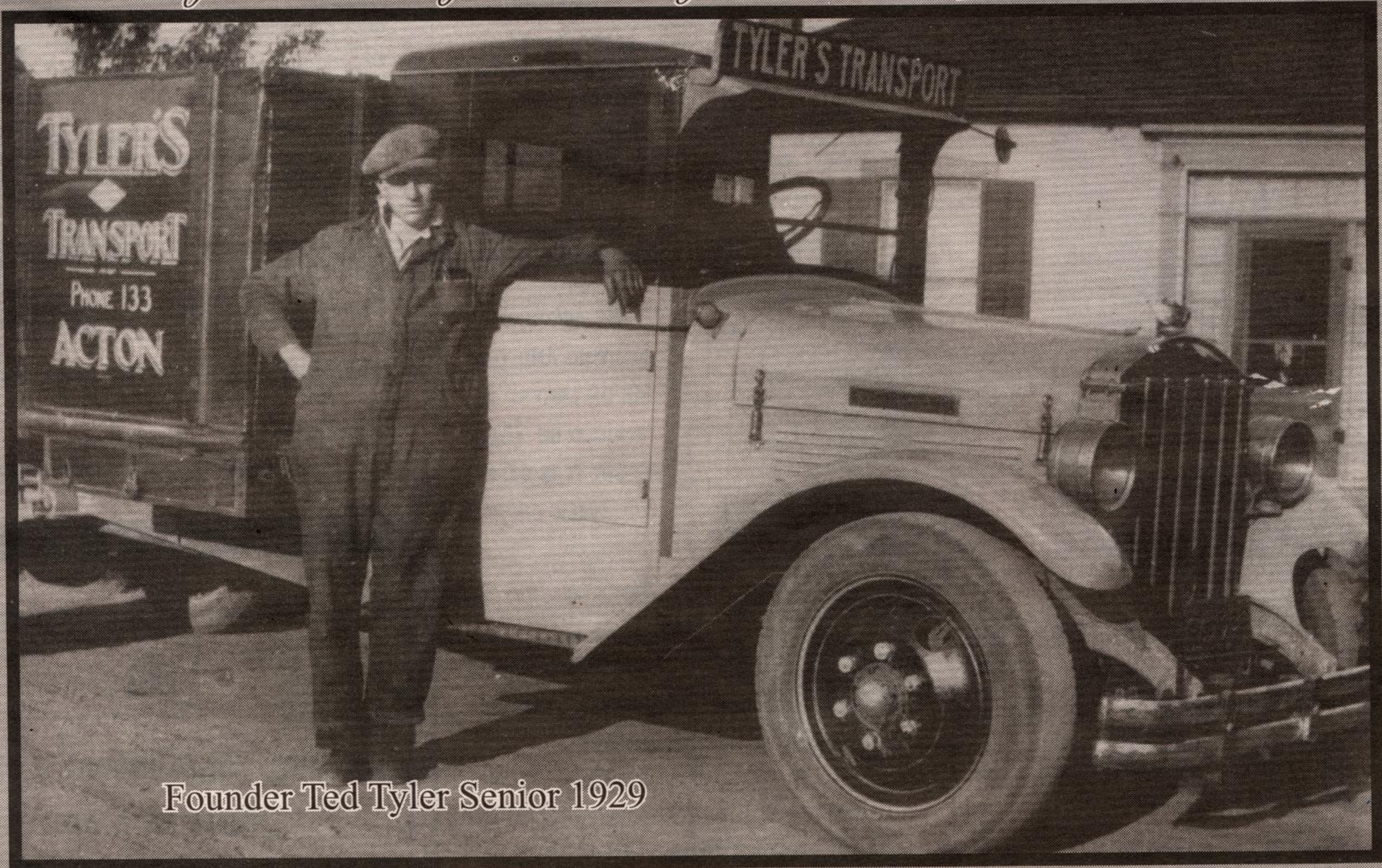
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