

Local diver honored for rescue effort

By **HERB GARBUTT**
Staff Writer

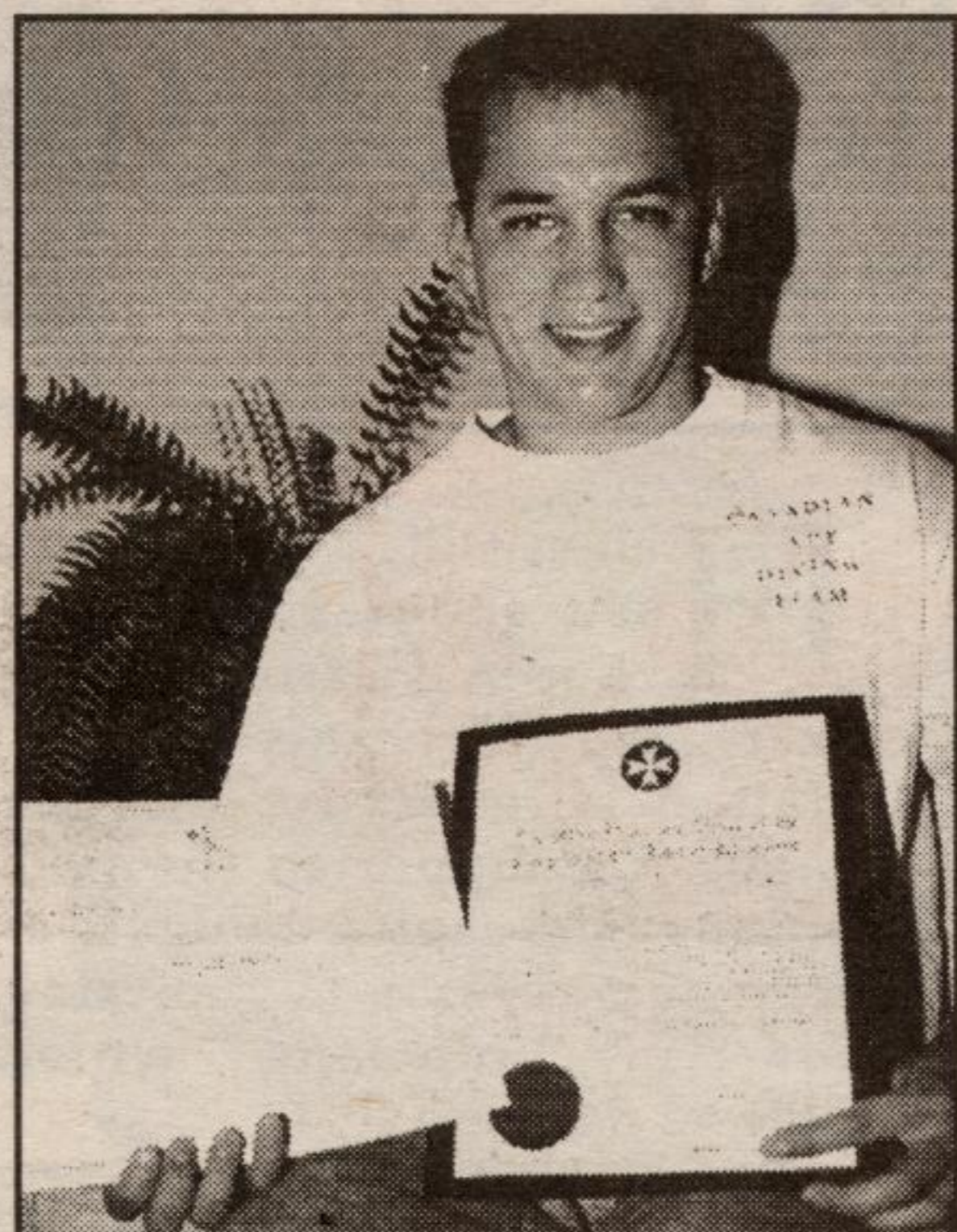
When Doug Daniell received the call to help locate a diver lost in an underwater cave, he feared the worst.

Fortunately, thanks to Daniell and three other divers, Richard Browning was found almost six hours after he went missing in the cave near Tobermory, Ont. Browning had survived by finding a small air pocket but still had to contend with near freezing water up to his chest. He was suffering from hypothermia and was close to losing consciousness when he was located.

"Everyone thought the worst," said the 24-year-old Georgetown diver. "The odds of him being alive were just astronomical. It was a great relief because he had his wife and a few friends waiting on the OPP boat."

Daniell said the rescue was only the third successful rescue of its kind.

Daniell and the other divers,



Doug Daniell displays the awards he was presented with recently for his part in rescuing a diver lost in an underwater cave near Tobermory. Daniell received commendations from the Governor General of Canada and from the OPP.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Terry German, Robert Ludwig and James Martin, were honored for their parts in the August 1995 rescue earlier this month. They received a

commendation from Governor General of Canada and a St. John's Ambulance Special Certificate of Commendation, which was presented to them by OPP Commissioner Thomas O'Grady.

Daniell had just returned to his family's cottage after a dive in another cave system when he received a call from the OPP. To access the caves, the divers had to carry the scuba gear about half a mile through rugged forest terrain. Once inside the caves, the divers had to deal with zero visibility and passages so tight they had to push their air tanks ahead of them rather than mounting them on their backs.

Browning was an experienced diver but made one mistake. He thought he would duck inside a cave for a quick look and then come back out. However, once inside he turned back and saw four different passages.

"The golden rule is to always lay a line," said Daniell, who has been diving for nine years and cave diving for four.

"It's like a trail of bread crumbs to help you find your way out."

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