

People

Board committee studys school lunch room policy

When Ontario Agricultural College awards presentations took place recently at University of Guelph, Milton's Nancy McKinnon was among the recipients of an OAC Associate Diploma centennial scholarship.

Nancy's was presented by former Miltonian George Robinson of the Research Station Services Branch, OAC.

This Friday, Nov. 21 at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, the coveted Queen's Guineas are up for grabs. Halton has six entries — David Lasby of Rockwood, Stephen Lasby of Campbellville, David McCann of Milton, and Paul, Bev and Brian Wingfield of Georgetown.

The new president of the Ontario Hospital Association for 1980-81 is Merritt G. Henderson, president of Mississauga Hospital. Mr. Henderson has ties with Milton, he is married to the former Jean Chisholm of Milton.

The Society of Management Accountants of Ontario has announced its 1980 RIA graduates, and the list includes two from Milton. They are Steven J. Medlar an employee of The Steak Shop, Toronto, and Steven Balka of Control Data. Congratulations!

Welcome to Milton, recent newcomers: K. Smith from Burlington, Mr. and Mrs. D. Dougan from Scarborough, Mr. and Mrs. Heynings from Mississauga, Mr. and Mrs. C. Martin from Richmond Hill, Mr. and Mrs. R. Smith from Kingston, Mr. and Mrs. D. Turner and C. Sleep from Guelph.

Also a hearty welcome to recent arrivals from Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. D. Menard, Mr. and Mrs. M. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. F. Visconti and R. Zirbser. Newcomers from Montreal include Mr. and Mrs. A. Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hegge, K. Brackley and M. Beauregard.

A new Milton family is the H. Crotau family from Quebec City. And the R. DiFrancescantonio family, who came here from Toronto, claims the distinction of having the longest name in Milton!

Champion history columnist Mel Robinson, who's been on the sick list all summer, plans to return to his column-writing chores in the near future. He dropped in at The Champion Monday to let us know he's feeling much better again, and plans to submit more columns on Milton's history on an irregular basis through the winter months.

Welcome back, Mel.

Parents who are unhappy about their youngsters eating lunches on school room floors will be waiting until mid-winter before word of any change comes from Halton's Board of Education.

The board struck a new committee Thursday to examine the lunch room policy in elementary schools. The committee, composed of trustees, principals and administrators, is to report no later than next January.

Acton-Esqueing Trustee Betty Fisher, one of the powers behind formation of the committee, said solutions "won't cost thousands of dollars. It's amazing what people can come up with."

Fisher and fellow sponsor of the committee Jackie Cutmore defended their initiative against

trustees who predicted the solutions would cost considerable money and others who said one of the regular committees could take on the task.

"Parents," said Fisher, "feel it is cold and unsanitary."

Ten trustees voted in favor of the committee, two were absent and eight were against it.

According to Halton Director of Education Em Lavender the provincial ministry of education is saying every child has the right to remain at school for lunch.

In one Acton school, according to Fisher, as many as 340 pupils remain for lunch. If food is eaten at the pupils' desks there is a mess, and using the gym floor as a lunch room prevents some extra curriculum activities during lunch.

Moreover, said Fisher, the elementary schools are not treated equally with the high schools because the latter have proper lunch room facilities.

"Perhaps we can supply seats so there is no mess and they are not on the floor. I perceive it will cost some dollars," said Fisher.

Milton trustee Ivan Armstrong said he foresees "a major building program" if elementary school lunch facilities are to be made equal to those in high schools.

Armstrong said Martin St. School tried to accommodate the requests of parents for improved lunch facilities. The principal put out chairs for the children, then they complained that their groups were being broken up.

There was reluctance on the part of Burlington trustee Cam Jackson to set up a committee which will "virtually be unable to influence the ministry's direction."

The lunch policy figured in contract talks with elementary teachers said Jackson, who is chairman of the salary committee. He indicated that the standing committee on staff-board relations would be the best group to take on the task.

"What we want is an overview, a thorough study, so we can respond to the concerns of the community," said trustee Edna Robinson of Burlington. She also did not want to see the policy as part of the collective agreement.

There was another complication, according to Lavender — principals must provide lunch room supervision while giving teachers at least 40 minutes for lunch.

Board shelves gratuity plans

Halton Board of Education will continue to pay retirement gratuities with its wallet rather than the piggy bank.

Board trustees voted 10 to eight in favor of paying retirement gratuities, amounting to \$30 million by the end of the century, from current funds rather than set up a reserve fund.

The vote killed an administration scheme which would have set aside some money each year to help cover the cost of retirement gratuities of board employees.

The retirement gratuity is a bonus which is paid employees — mostly teachers — on retirement. In order to qualify for the gratuity teachers must have 200 sick days of leave in the bank plus 15 years of service.

The only gain in the administration's plan, according to trustee D. G. Morton "is to make it smoother as an accounting practice."

The board is legally obligated to pay retirement gratuities.

The proposed fund would have partially paid for the gratuity.

Burlington trustee Bill Priestner viewed the proposal as a step towards enshrining retirement gratuities; that is ensuring that they are a permanent part of teacher contracts.

Elaine Riehm, another Burlington trustee, disagreed. "I agree trustees in the province wish to decrease the liability. I agree if we fund it fully, it would be enshrining, but we're not, so we are not enshrining future liabilities only recognizing present liabilities."

Priestner indicated he would rather see a sinking fund created to replace old buildings. Trustee Cam Jackson

said the province helps with replacing structures; however, it is fiscally irresponsible, he indicated, not to do something more about retirement gratuities.

Over the next 20 years retirement gratuities, according to board staff estimates, will cost \$30,716,625 for caretakers, clerical and other staff as well as high school and elementary teachers.

Since Halton started paying the gratuity, 11

Church bolsters vote

The efforts of several members of Grace Anglican Church to stimulate voter participation in particular polling areas paid off, in Milton municipal election.

The church's outreach committee chose to cover the areas of Elmwood Cresc. and Lorne Scots Dr. which recorded poor voter turnout in the 1978 election.

Hugh Beaty, who assisted in organizing the neighborhood canvas, said the results weren't as good as he had hoped for, but statistics show a 6.87 per cent increase in these areas compared to 1978 figures.

About 12 church members went door to door Sunday afternoon Nov. 9, encouraging voters to vote Monday night.

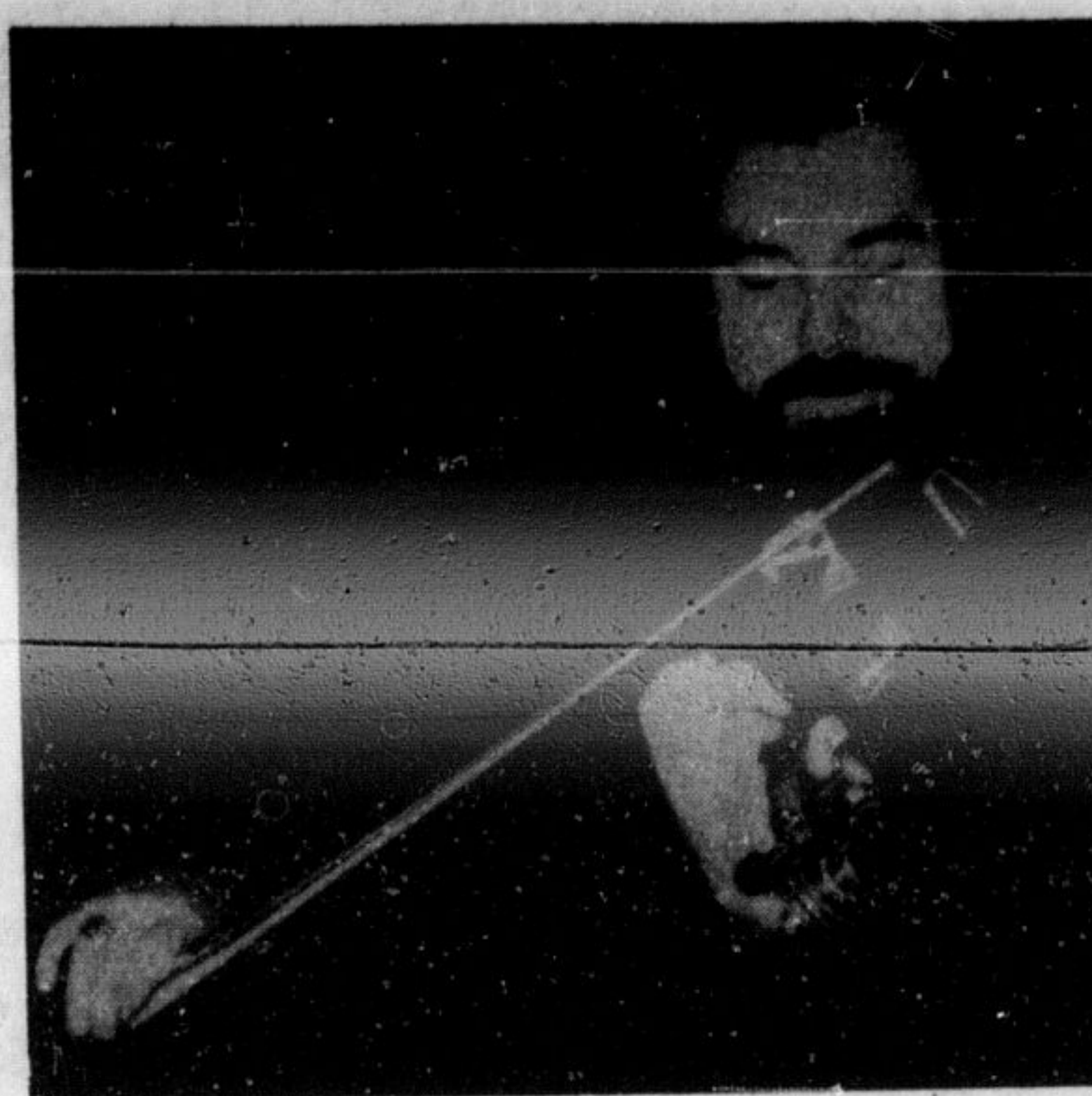
years ago, some 285 workers have benefitted at a cost to taxpayers of \$1,829,378.

Retirement gratuities started as a bonus when teachers were not paid as well as they are now.

Jackson, during a previous discussion of retirement gratuities, said "Under the current scheme of things it's possible for a teacher to earn more in the first year of retirement than in the last year of work."

Five-time champ

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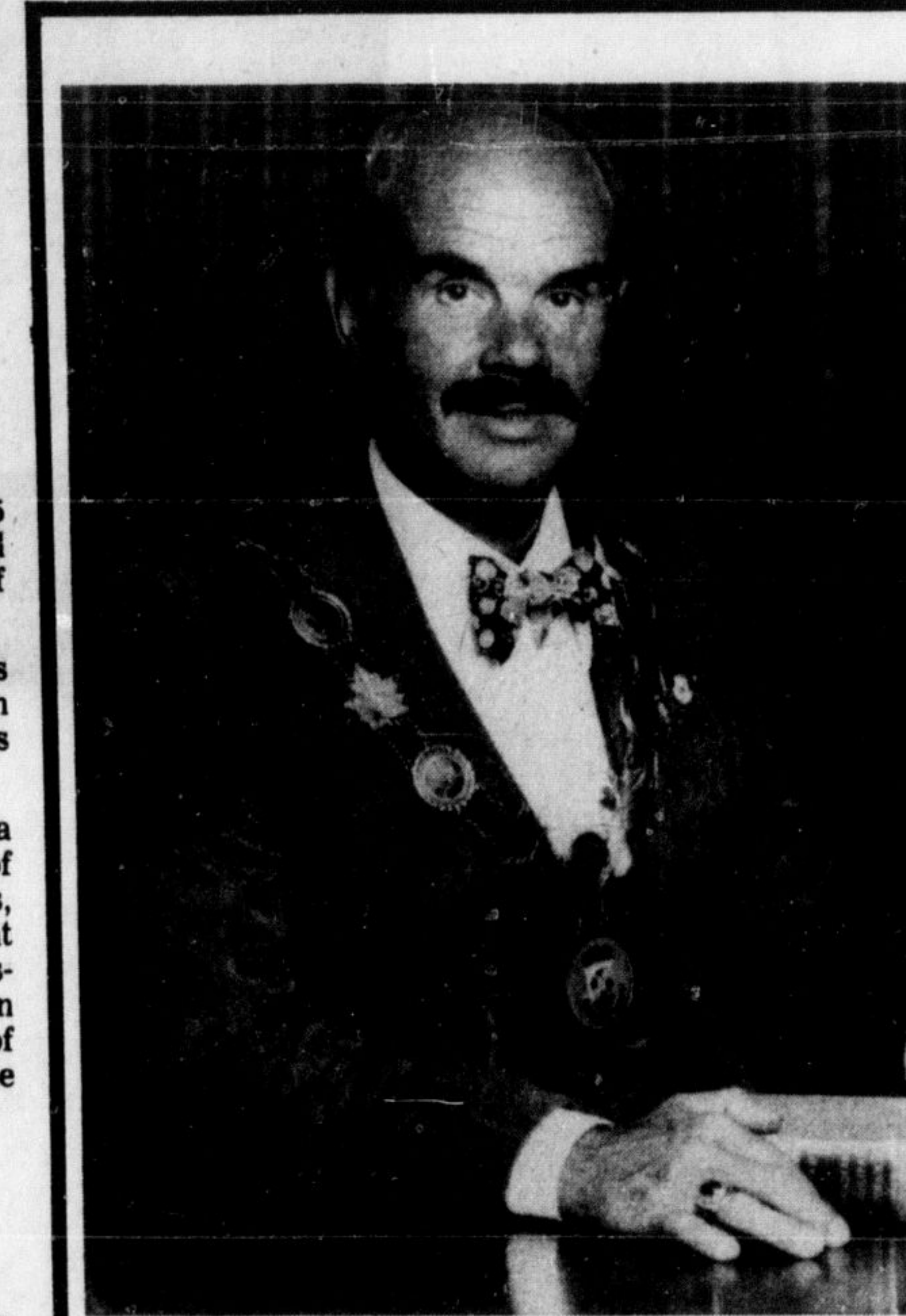
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A Thank You

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to all my supporters, for your faith, your trust and efforts during the campaign.

A SINCERE THANK YOU to all the candidates, for enriching our community by your untiring effort.

A WELL EARNED THANK YOU to all the voters for exercising your freedom of choice.

On behalf of my wife Pauline and myself, a gratifying thank you to the citizens of Milton, for letting us be your servants for 4 years.

Thank you for your thoughts, your ideas and most important of all, your companionship. These fond memories will be cherished forever.

Sincerely,

Don & Pauline Gordon

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