

The Canadian Champion



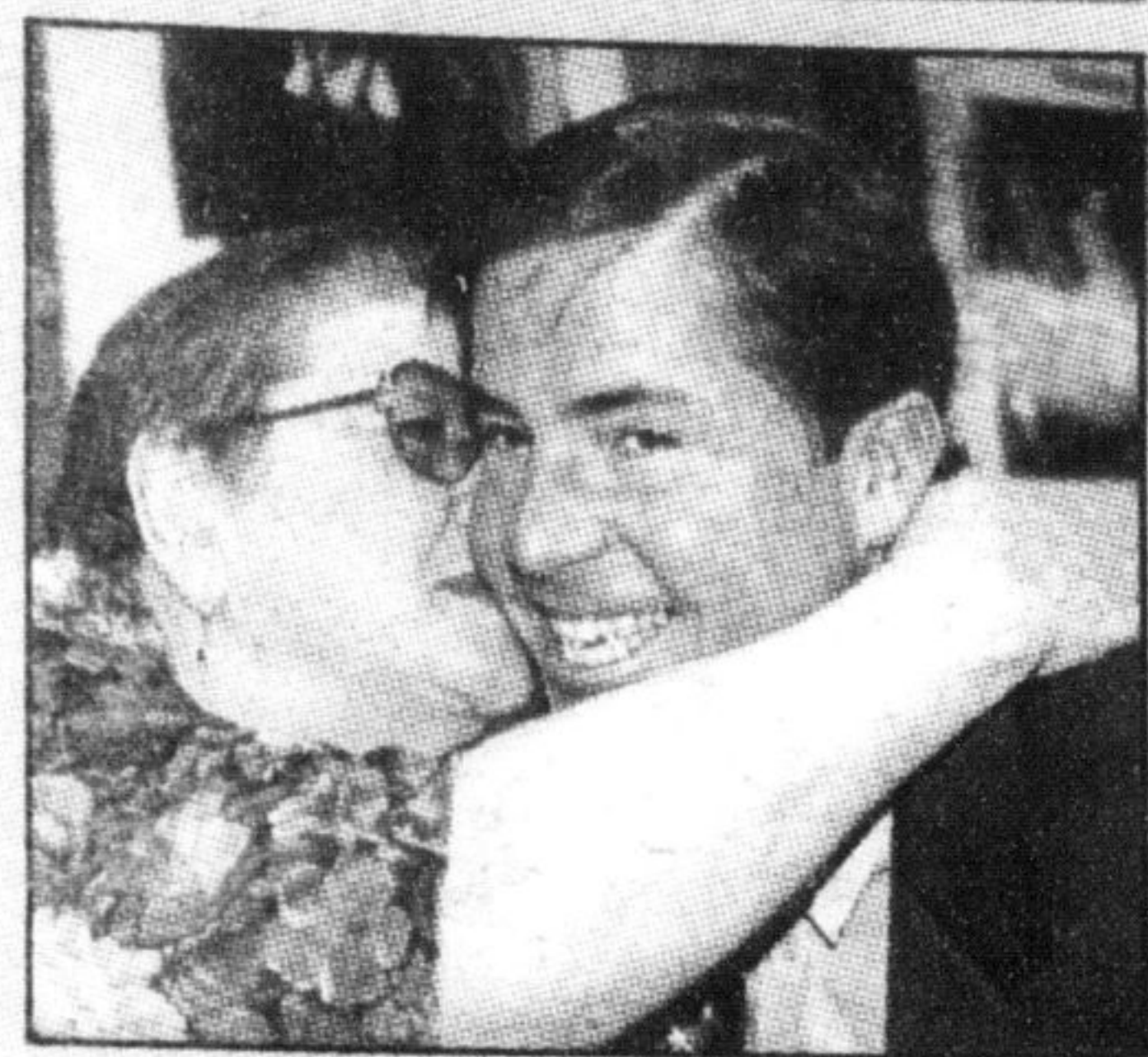
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Allendale's Irene Pegg plants a kiss on Cam Jackson Friday.

Young man races against clock to find birth mother

By STEVE LeBLANC / Special to The Champion

Donny Wurr is hoping to see his birth relatives — while he still can. The Milton-born 23-year-old has suffered from glaucoma since his early teens. He has already lost sight in his left eye as a result of the disease.

With the eventuality of going completely blind hanging over him, Mr. Wurr has begun a campaign to find his biological family.

"I want to find them very badly," he stressed. "I think about it every day."

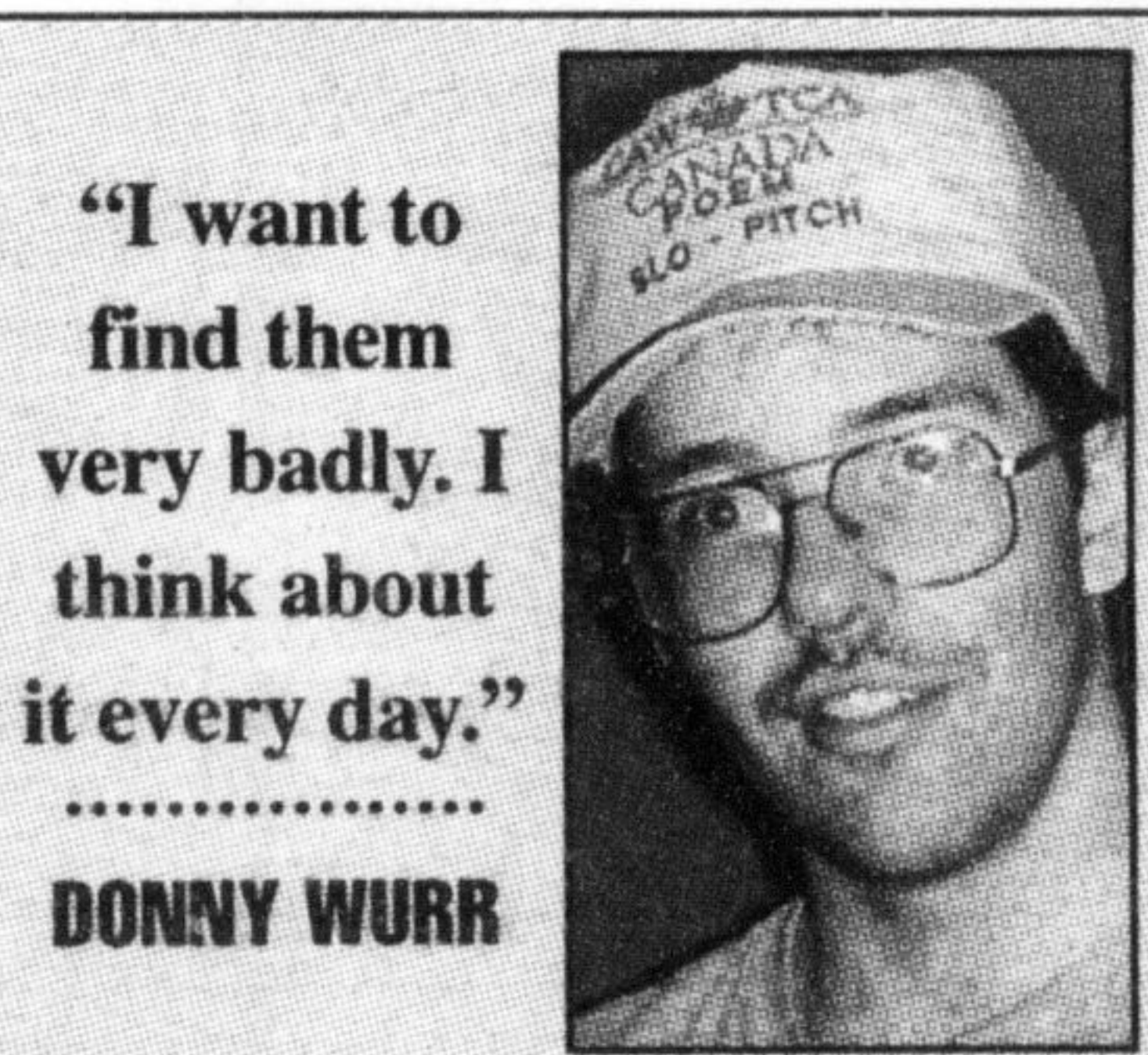
Just as anxious for his search to reach fruition are adopted parents Judith and David Wurr, who have supported and assisted him every step of the way.

The couple became guardians of Donny when he was just three months old. They also adopted his older sister Sherry, and Mrs. Wurr was adopted herself.

As a result, she appreciates her son's wish.

"We told Donny he was adopted when he was five years old. We didn't want to keep any secrets from him," Mrs. Wurr recalled. The family now lives in Guelph, where Donny works on car parts at Arc Industries. "He came to us this past Christmas and said he really wanted to know where his birth relatives are and learn about his roots," Mrs. Wurr said.

"Both his father and I were totally behind the idea, right from the start.



"I want to find them very badly. I think about it every day."
DONNY WURR

Having been adopted myself, I don't think you can figure out who you are until you know where you came from."

While they still don't know the birth mother's first or last name, the Wurrs have been offered a few pieces of the puzzle by the Children's Aid Society.

Donny's mother is 47 years old and her birthday is in August. At the time of his birth, his maternal grandfather was a self-employed trucker and his mother was a service station attendant.

She also gave birth to two other sons in 1969 and 1971, the second of whom she is believed to have kept.

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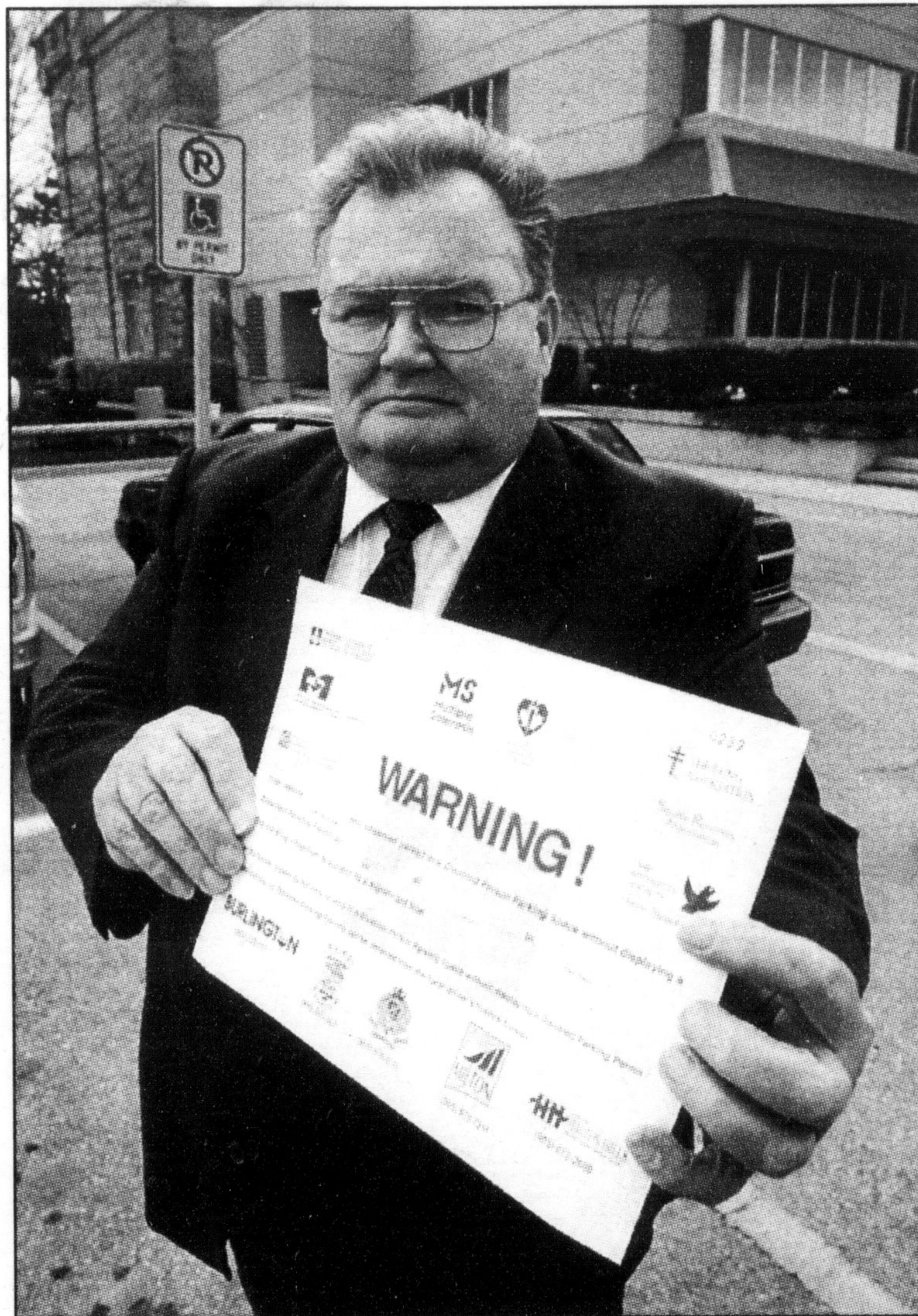


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

John Josie displays a disabled parking warning sign, a new initiative in Halton to discourage drivers from illegally using handicapped spaces.

Beware, parking bandits in handicapped spaces

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to The Champion

Halton motorists who park illegally in handicapped spaces will now feel a backlash from those they're cheating.

Disabled drivers have recently been empowered in their fight to protect their parking spots — through warning tags endorsed by regional council.

In addition to the risk of a \$150 ticket from a bylaw enforcement officer, drivers using handicapped spots face having a warning sign stuck to their windshield.

Organized this past winter and introduced two weeks ago, the disabled parking warning program is meant to

assist with bylaw enforcement, not replace it.

With widespread violation across the region and many drivers in and out of parking spaces in a matter of minutes, it's extremely difficult for police to catch all of the offenders.

"We're letting these people (who park illegally) know that we're watching them," said Milton's John Josie, of the Canadian Diabetes Association.

The program was initiated by Carol McPetrie of the Halton Multiple Sclerosis Society, following some frustrating incidents trying to visit her dentist." Mr. Josie — the only local participant in the program to date —

• see DON'T HOG on page 4

MPP Jackson bearing gifts

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

Allendale residents — and their Halton/Hamilton Wentworth counterparts — received a substantial shot in the arm from the provincial government Friday.

Seniors and staff of the Milton-based facility burst into applause shortly after 11 a.m. when Burlington MPP Cam Jackson announced a reinvestment of \$2.7 million in community-based long-term care services.

Mr. Jackson, Minister Responsible for Seniors, said more than 1,780 people in Halton and Hamilton/Wentworth will benefit from the financial boost.

"We are putting patients first with this reinvestment," Mr. Jackson said. "Renewing our health care system means that money currently tied up in administration, duplication and overhead in hospitals will be reinvested in community services for patients."

The Ministry of Health will shell out \$622,222 to provide supportive housing services and expand the adult day program at Allendale.

A dozen community-based seniors currently enjoy services through the adult day program. Facility administrator Margaret Strecker said anticipated funding will allow another 16 to participate.

"Adult day services offer seniors a variety of activities as well as giving fulltime caregivers some relief," Ms Strecker explained. "The program will

• see ALLENDALE on page 9

NEWSLINES

Hospital meeting this week

Concerns about health care restructuring and how it may affect Milton District Hospital will be the topic of debate at a meet-

ing this Thursday (May 8).

Health Care Night in Milton at the Milton Optimist Centre, 311 Commercial St., will address the issue.

The public is invited to attend the 7 p.m. event spearheaded by the Canadian Union of Public Employees, local 815.

On hand will be hospital officials, politicians and representatives of health care agencies.

For more information, contact Duncan Currie at 878-5998.

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