

# Astronaut Chris Hadfield looks forward to another shuttle trip

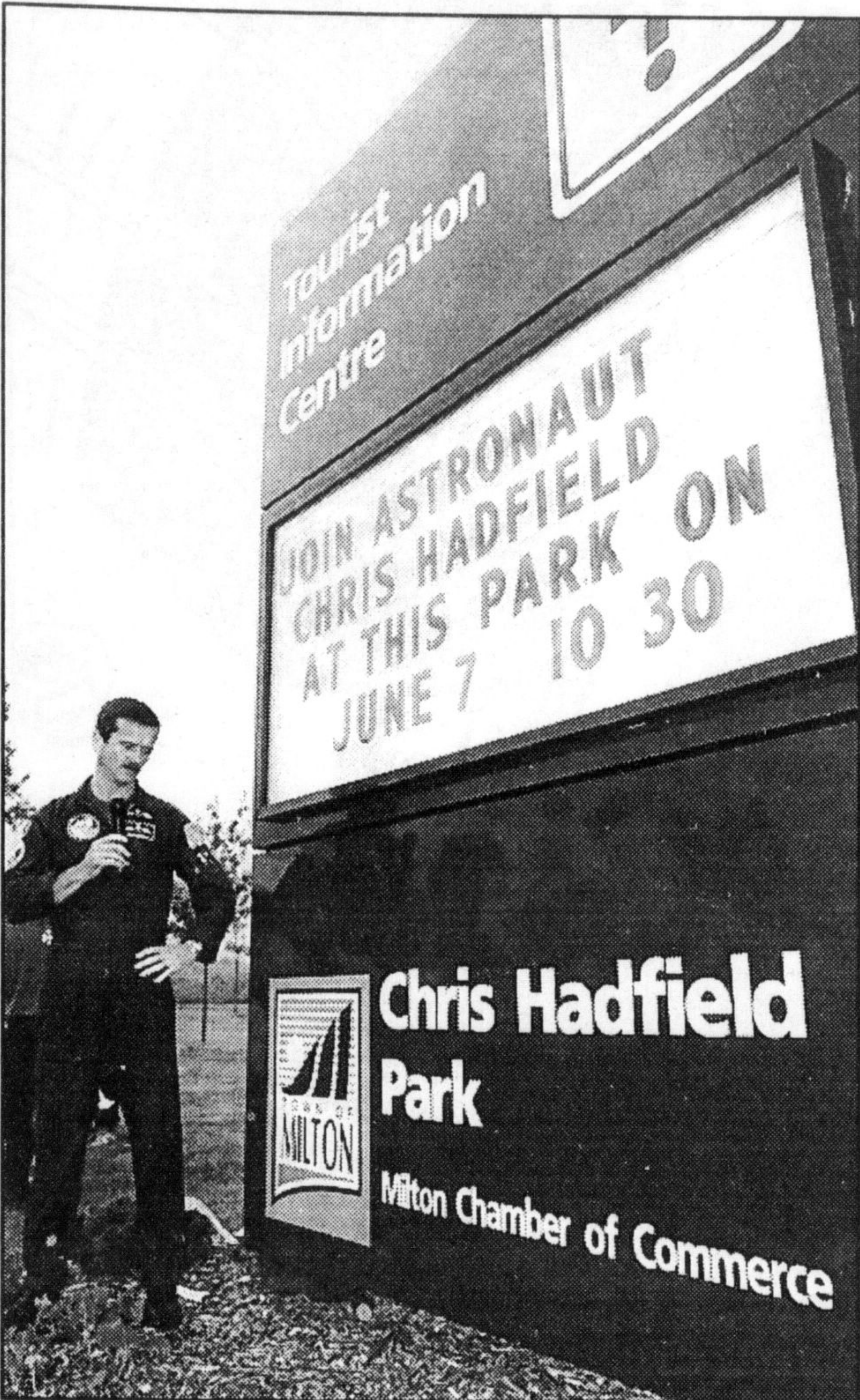


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Chris Hadfield reflects on the sign bearing his name at the former Unity Park just after its unveiling.

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
Special to *The Champion*

Perhaps it's appropriate that Unity Park was the site selected to immortalize Chris Hadfield. His off-world adventures after all, have served to inspire Miltonians as a whole.

Family, friends and well-wishers joined the 38-year-old astronaut Saturday morning when Unity Park (on Hwy. 25 next to the Chamber of Commerce) became Chris Hadfield Park.

The entranceway leading to the park was named Chris Hadfield Way.

"People will know where you come from and what you did," said town Councillor John Challinor, who unveiled the park's new sign at the mid-morning ceremony.

A severe downpour did little to dampen the spirit of the day, as 150 local residents braved chilly, rain-soaked conditions and stayed for the entire event.

Dozens of children mobbed Lieutenant-Colonel Hadfield for autographs and photographs before and after the renaming of the park. Enthusiasm was just as abundant among the adults, one of whom yelled out, "So when's your next flight Chris?"

"Soon," replied the local astronaut. "I looked in vain for Milton during my trip to the Russian Space Station Mir, but unfortunately the weather was like it is today the entire time. This doesn't in any way dampen my pleasure at coming back. It's a tremendous honour to be recognized in this way."

Looking out among Milton's youth, Canada's first mission specialist aboard

• See **CROWD** page 19

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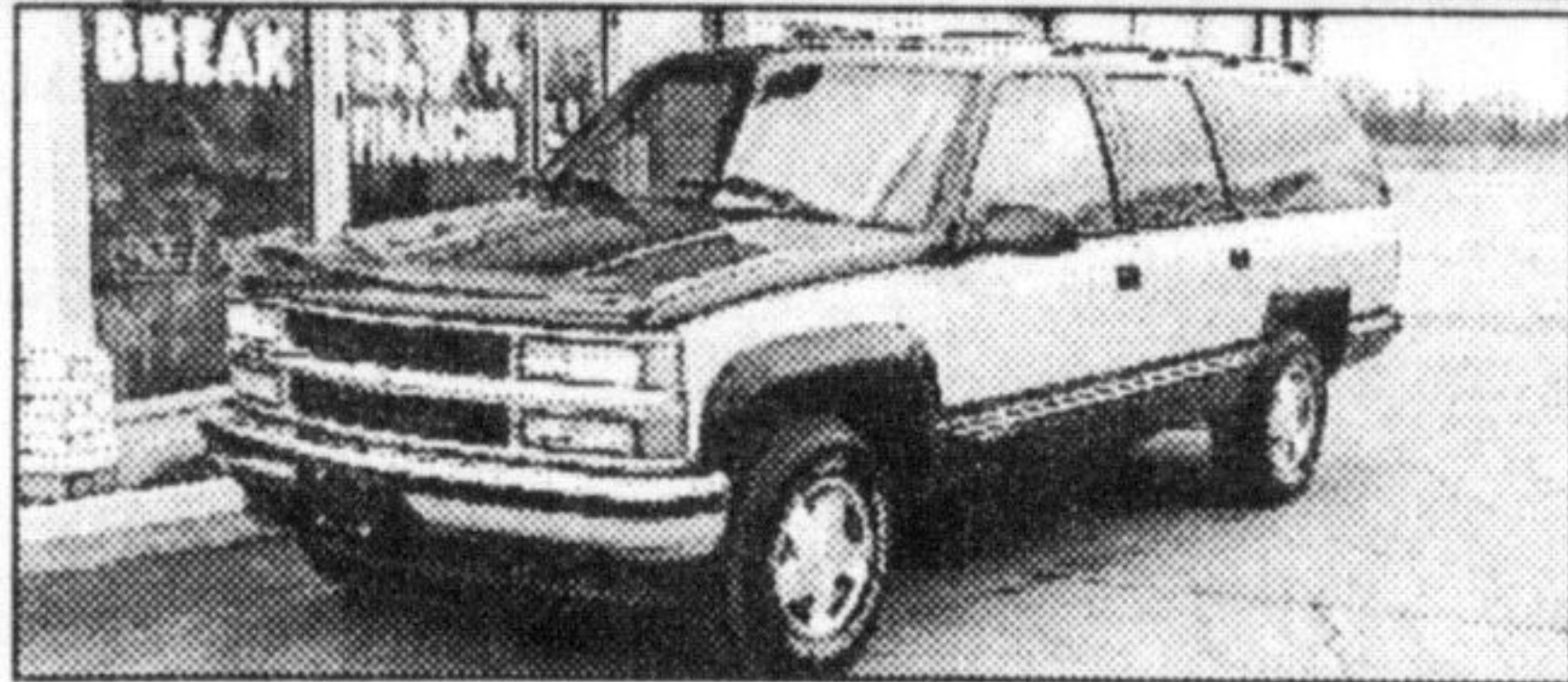
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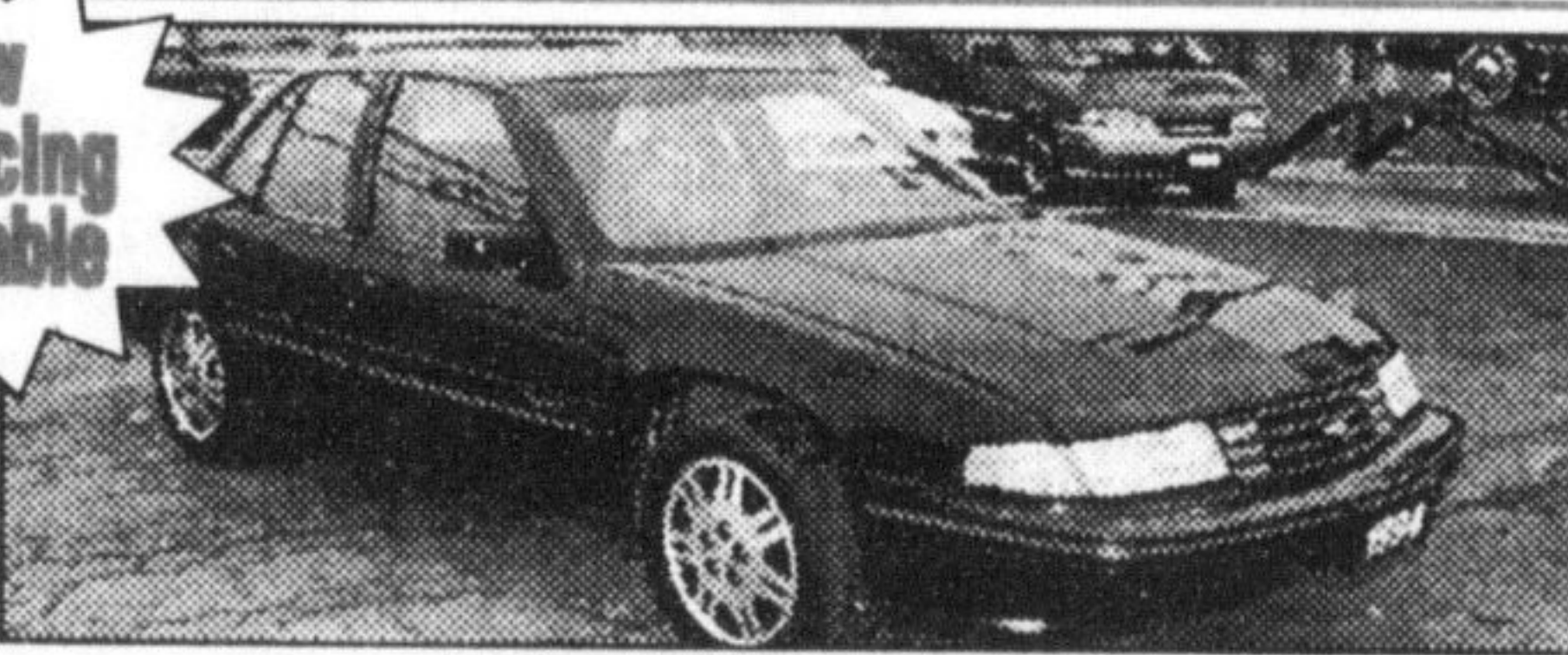
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