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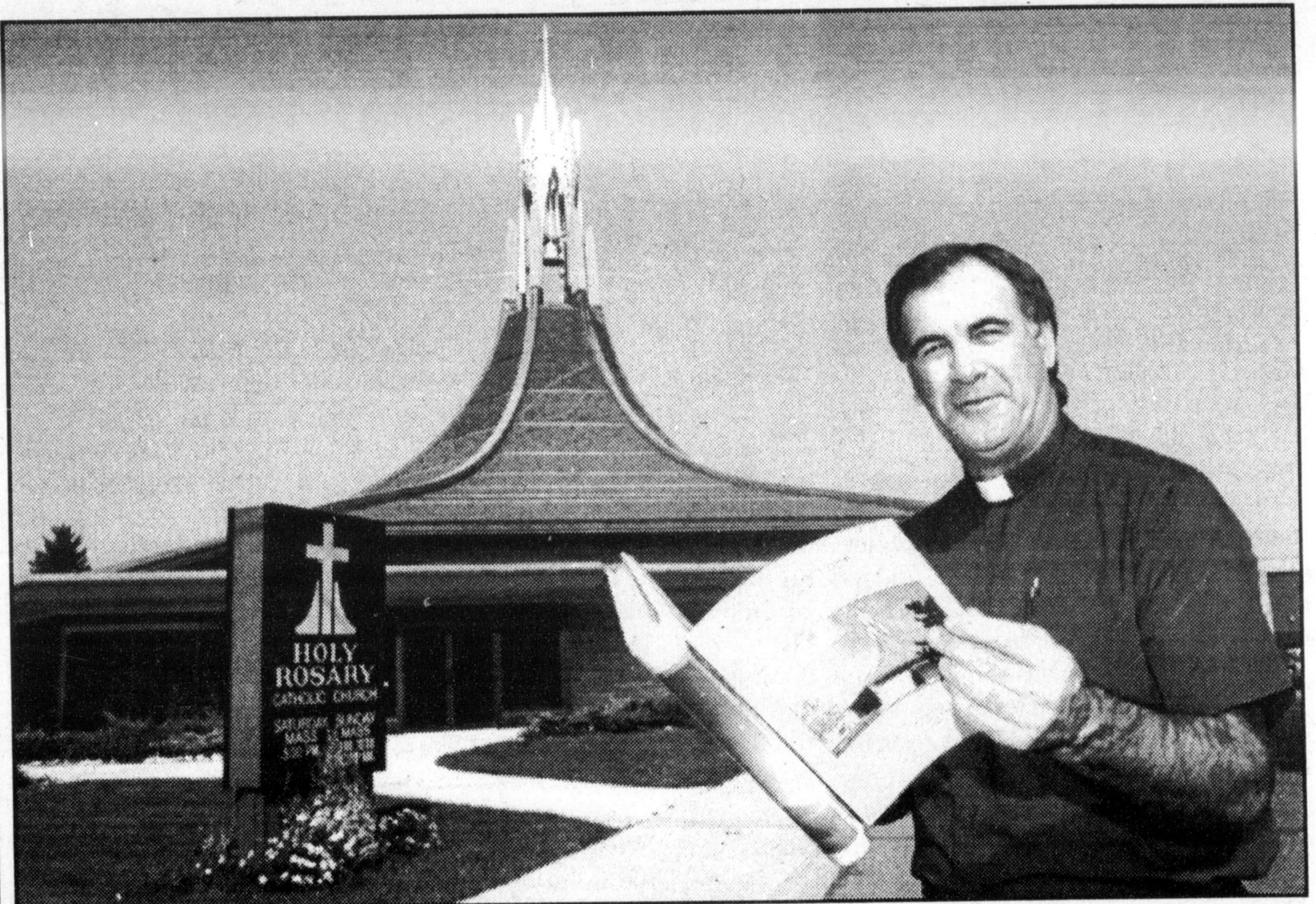


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Father Earl Talbot and his Holy Rosary parish are busy celebrating their Diamond Jubilee (60th anniversary). The milestone will be marked with a special mission this coming week.

Father Earl gets to make good on a decade old vow

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to The Champion

Father Earl Talbot hopes to add a little shine to Holy Rosary Church, in the midst of its Diamond Jubilee.

The senior pastor of Milton's Catholic parish has already begun 60th anniversary celebrations — ensuring that another golden opportunity doesn't slip through his fingers.

"When I arrived in 1988 there was confusion over when Holy Rosary parish was founded," Father Talbot recalled. "Many people believed that it was 1936, when the church was built on its original Pine Street site.

"I later learned that it was only in September of 1938 that Bishop Joseph Ryan assigned Reverend James Ryan (no relation) as the church's first resident priest."

The assignment of a resident priest — not the actual establishment of a church — is what marks the beginning of a Catholic parish.

While quick to clear up the confusion, Father Talbot wasn't in time to celebrate Holy Rosary's 50th anniversary.

"Having missed this milestone, I promised myself if I was still around we would celebrate the Diamond Jubilee right," he said.

While Holy Rosary kicked off its 60th anniversary last month, with a special blessing by Bishop Matthew Francis Ustrzycki, the real festivities are reserved for the coming week.

At that time (Monday, Oct. 20 to Wednesday, Oct. 22) the church will host a special parish mission.

Towards the Year 2000 is the overall theme for 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. gatherings. Addressing parish-

ioners will be Father Mark Gatto of the Hamilton Diocesan Jubilee committee.

"We'll be focusing on both jubilees (60th anniversary and Jubilee 2000) at once," explained Father Talbot, who serves Holy Rosary alongside associate Pastor Terence Schl, Sister Audrey Burns and weekend associate Pastor Ed Hampson.

"Missions are an opportunity to reconnect with the church in a very non-threatening way. Everyone is welcome to attend and parishioners are invited to bring along a friend."

The upcoming mission, he said, will act as a tune-up for the "big jubilee." Father Talbot says this is an ideal time to renew one's affiliation with the church.

"The term jubilee goes back to before Christ. It was generally a time to cancel debts and to make a fresh start," he said.

Jubilee 2000 may mark a new beginning for Holy Rosary's 3,000 families, but it will also bring an end to Father Talbot's affiliation with the local parish.

With Catholic priests allotted a maximum 12 years in any one community, Father Talbot will soon be assigned a new pulpit.

Reminiscing on the past decade, he said Milton is "a great spot for me to be in. With a jail, hospital and three high schools, it has every possible institution to serve while maintaining a small town feel.

"For a priest, Milton offers the best of both worlds."

Holy Rosary's Diamond Jubilee will continue until September, 1998, at which time Bishop Anthony Tonno will cap celebrations with a special mass.

The church will also hold a reunion of past and present parishioners (of Holy Rosary and affiliate missions Our Lady of Victory and St. Peter's) in early May.

Ken Campbell in trustee race

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

An outspoken religious leader has entered the race for Milton's public school trustee.

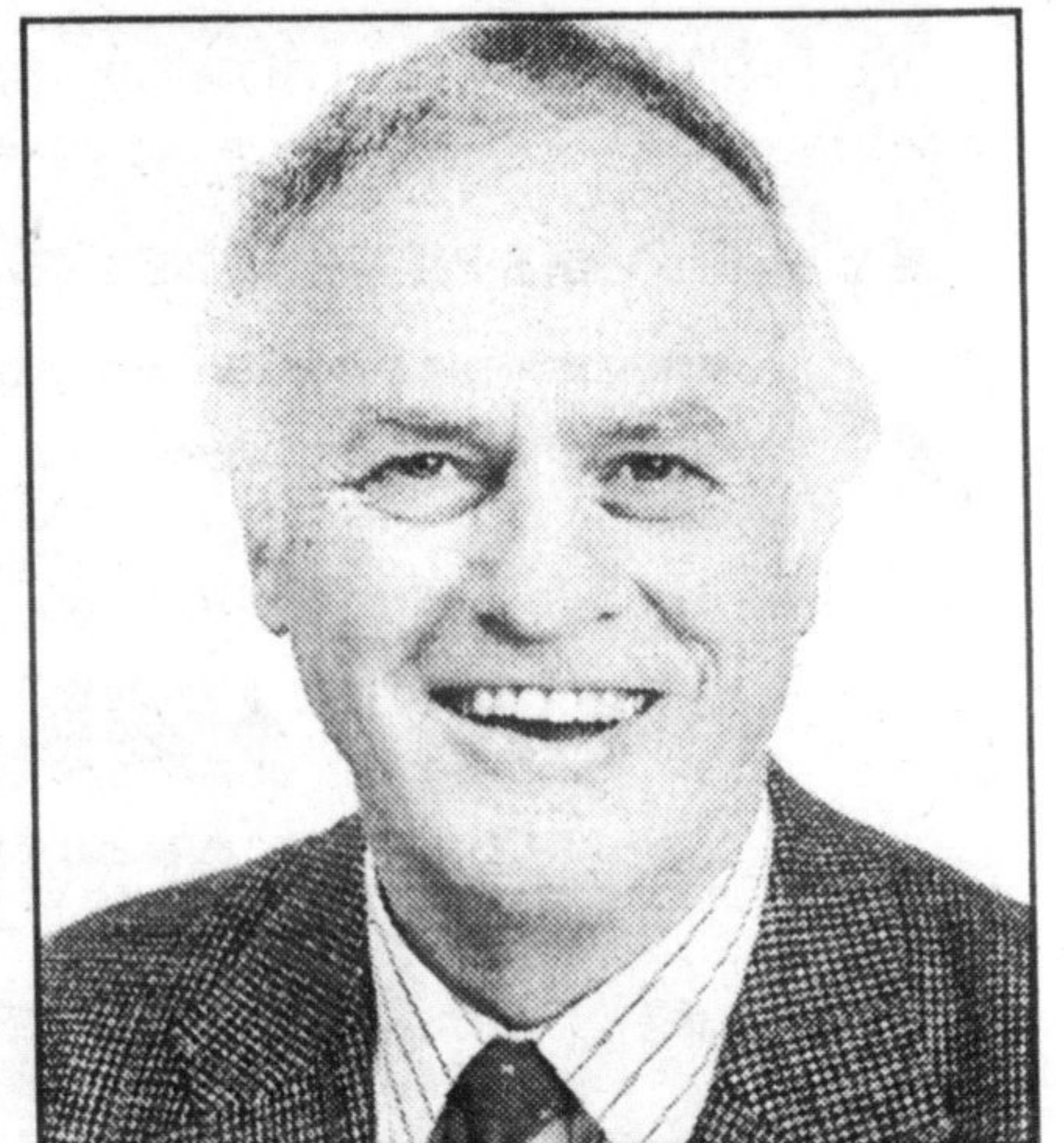
Rev. Ken Campbell registered his candidacy last Friday, just hours before the deadline.

The leader of Renaissance Canada Inc. and founder of Parent Power in Public Schooling said he didn't consider running until last Friday morning when he "awoke with a gentle nudge from the Lord."

And the nudge was backed up by an early-morning fax from Parents Against Corrupt Teaching chair Jack Huisman nominating him to run, Rev. Campbell said.

Mr. Huisman, who provided the \$100 registration fee, is the reverend's campaign manager.

The idea of competing in a political race isn't new to Rev.



Reverend Ken Campbell

• see CAMPBELL on page 19

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