

✓ Paul Macdonald rides a wave to eastern title

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Paul Macdonald's wave of success continues. The Milton barefoot water-skier won his second event of the year recently, capturing gold in the men's open class at the Eastern Canadian Championships in Cambridge.

Overall victory — which no doubt lifted his national ranking to a top five position — was secured through consistent and captivating performances over the two-day showcase.

The 23-year-old got progressively stronger as the weekend wore on and punctuated his efforts with a huge exclamation mark, finishing first in the trick event with a score of 2,130 on the Sunday evening.

Incorporating nine exciting elements into his routine — the most troublesome of which was the toe turn where he grips the handle with one foot and then rides on the other before spinning backwards, all without using his hands — he outscored the runner-up by 400 points.

"I closed out with the toe turn and really nailed it this time," said Macdonald, who won the eastern nationals after playing the role of bridesmaid with second and third place finishes the previous three years.

"The water was beautiful for the trick event, like glass. It was the perfect ending to the weekend, to have great conditions and then to win."

The Eastern Canadian champ tied for first in the jump-off, clearing 41 feet on his first attempt and coming up just one foot shy of a personal record.

Explained Macdonald, "I went a little further on the



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— PAUL MACDONALD

next two tries but couldn't stick the landing. For a jump to count, you have to be able to ski away with control."

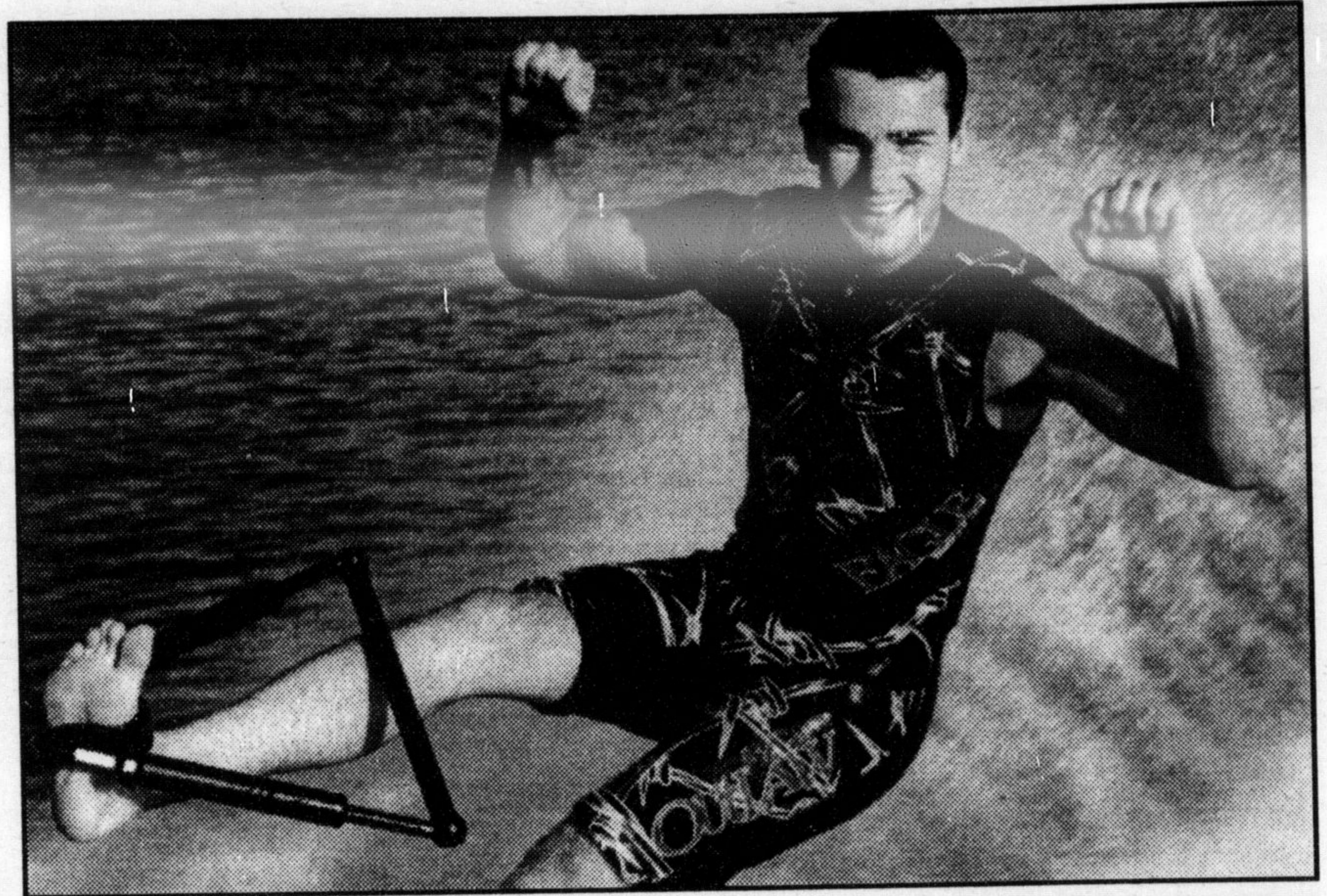
In Saturday's slalom event — which represents the racing portion of the showcase — the local water walker made 9.4 crossings during the two allotted 15-second passes.

This solid but unspectacular effort, due in part to especially choppy waters that morning, placed him third with two full crossings less than the winner.

In the all-around standings, he upstaged local favourite John Trip (who trains on the Grand River) for the gold medal.

"It was definitely nice to win and see all my hard work pay off," said Macdonald, who receives sponsorship from Bolle Canada and Eagle Wet Suits.

He'll try to parlay this recent victory into greater riches early next month at the Canadian Championships, which will be held in Kamloops, British Columbia.



Paul Macdonald shows the stuff that has made him a champion competitor.

Novices shade Halton Hills 'Dogs

Milton's novice lacrosse team ended the regular season with something that's eluded them much of this year — namely, a win.

The Mavericks put together their second league victory at John Tonelli Sports Centre recently. It was delivered at the expense of the Halton Hills Bulldogs, whom they edged 6-5.

Playing hero and star in the same night was Ian Goertz, who sank the game winning marker after

assisting on three goals earlier in the night.

Bradley Hoy tallied twice while singles were added by Riley Duke, Ryan Lecky and David Majka. Contributing two assists was Scott Stover.

Goaltender Matt Clark turned in one of his best efforts of the season.

The novices' zone playoffs start next week, with provincial competition slated for August 13 to 15 in Brampton.

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LOCATION
Hugh Foster Hall, Milton

TIME
Thursday, Aug. 5th
12:00 pm and 7:30 pm
(refreshments)

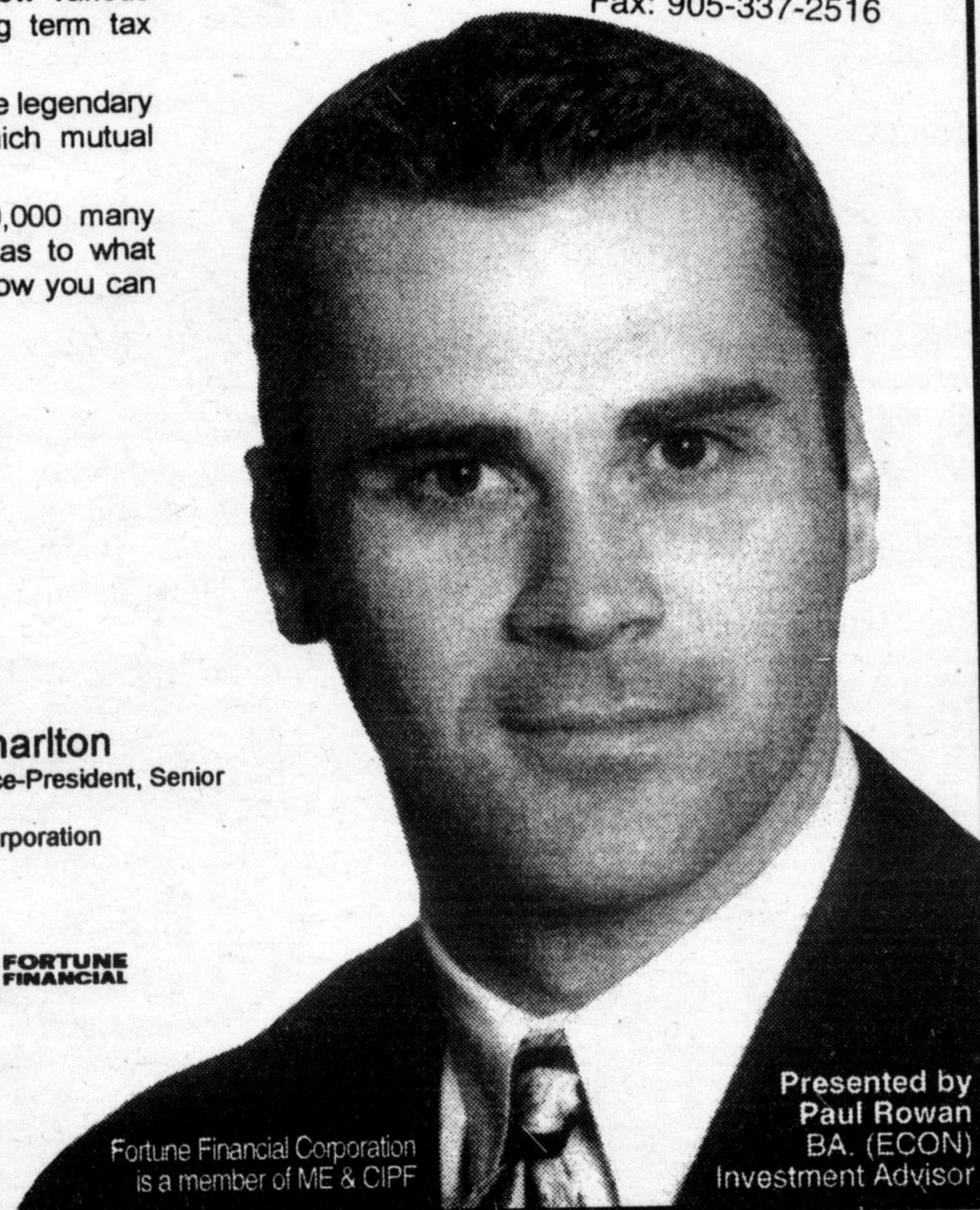


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