

# Businessman of Year nominees love their town

By LISA CARTWRIGHT  
The Champion

The nominees for the Milton Chamber of Commerce's Businessman of the Year Award have two things in common — a love for their community and a commitment to make it better.

Pharmacist Don Bell, owner of Shopper's Drug Mart at Carriage Square, and Doug Kocher, owner of McKersie-Kocher Funeral Home, work tirelessly to raise money for people in their community.

While Mr. Bell, who has spent his entire working career in Milton, no longer lives in town, he still considers it his home.

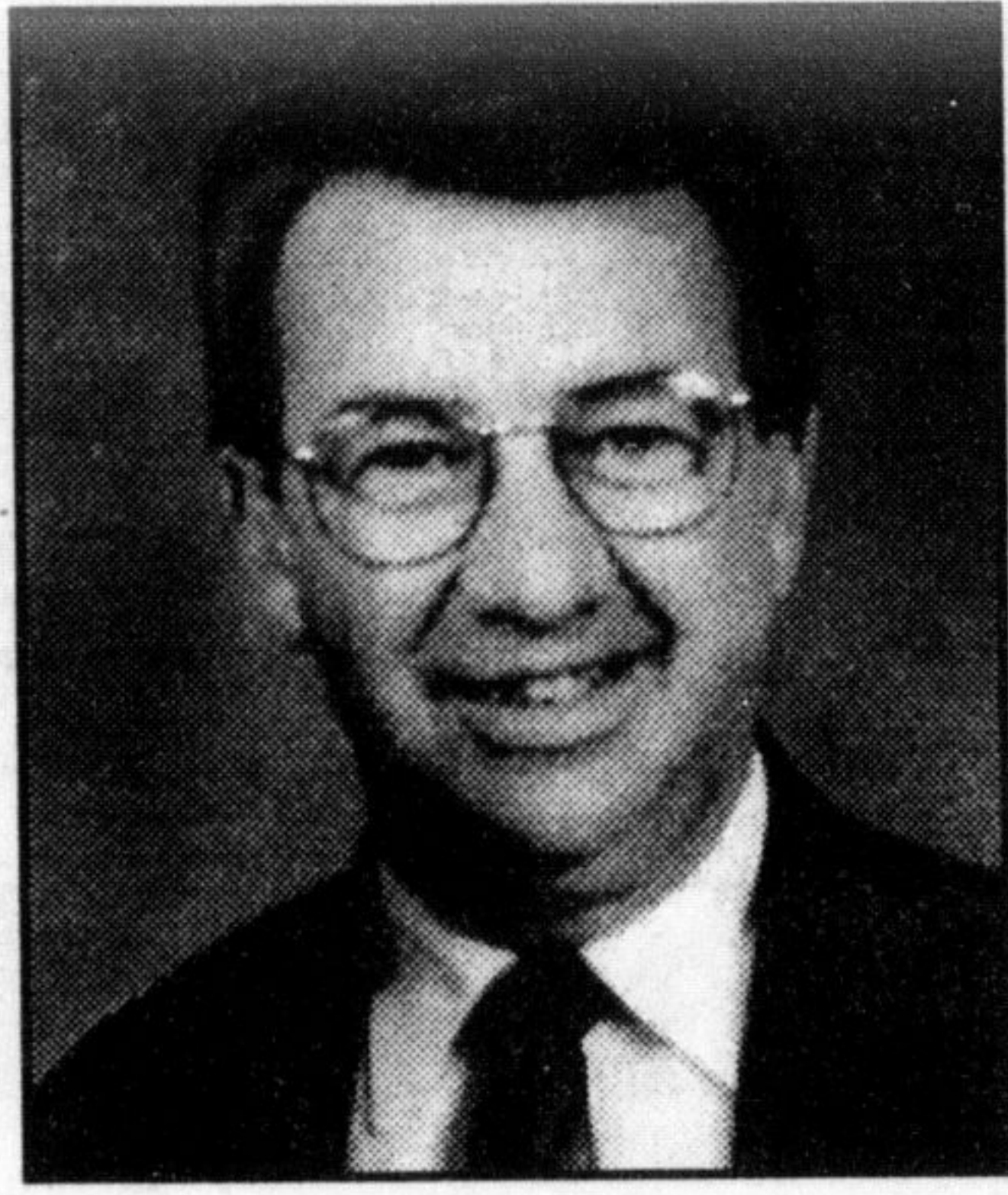
"I do things only for Milton," Mr. Bell said.

"I have a strong affinity to the town."

Mr. Bell has been a member of the Milton Lions Club for 10 years (five of which he spent as treasurer) and sponsors three girls and three boys house league teams each year.

Mr. Bell and his staff organize local sports events to raise money for different charities.

In the past, they have hosted a weekend baseball tournament that raised more than \$20,000 for



Doug Kocher

Milton District Hospital as well as a golf tournament that raised more than \$23,000 for Rose Cherry's Home.

"It's only through the staff and their time that we are able to raise money."

The Junior Achievement program has also benefited from the generosity of Mr. Bell, who taught a class of grade 8 students about the economic value of staying in school.

"I am surprised. I am humbled and equally elated" by the nomination, Mr. Bell said.

"I certainly wasn't expecting it."

Mr. Kocher, too, said he was surprised to be nominated for Businessman of the Year.

"I never expected to receive such an honour," said Mr. Kocher who runs the funeral home with his wife Judy and son Andrew.

Mr. Kocher and his family have been in Milton for 23 years.

In that time he has sponsored hockey and baseball teams as well as 'The Monitor', a monthly Milton District Hospital information feature that runs in The Champion.

He was the past president of the Central Ontario Funeral Directors Association, a member of the St. Clair Masonic Lodge and has been involved with the Rotary Club for about 20 years, five of which he spent as president.

The Rotary Club offers ongoing support to organizations such as Easter Seals.

Mr. Kocher is the chair of the Milton organization.

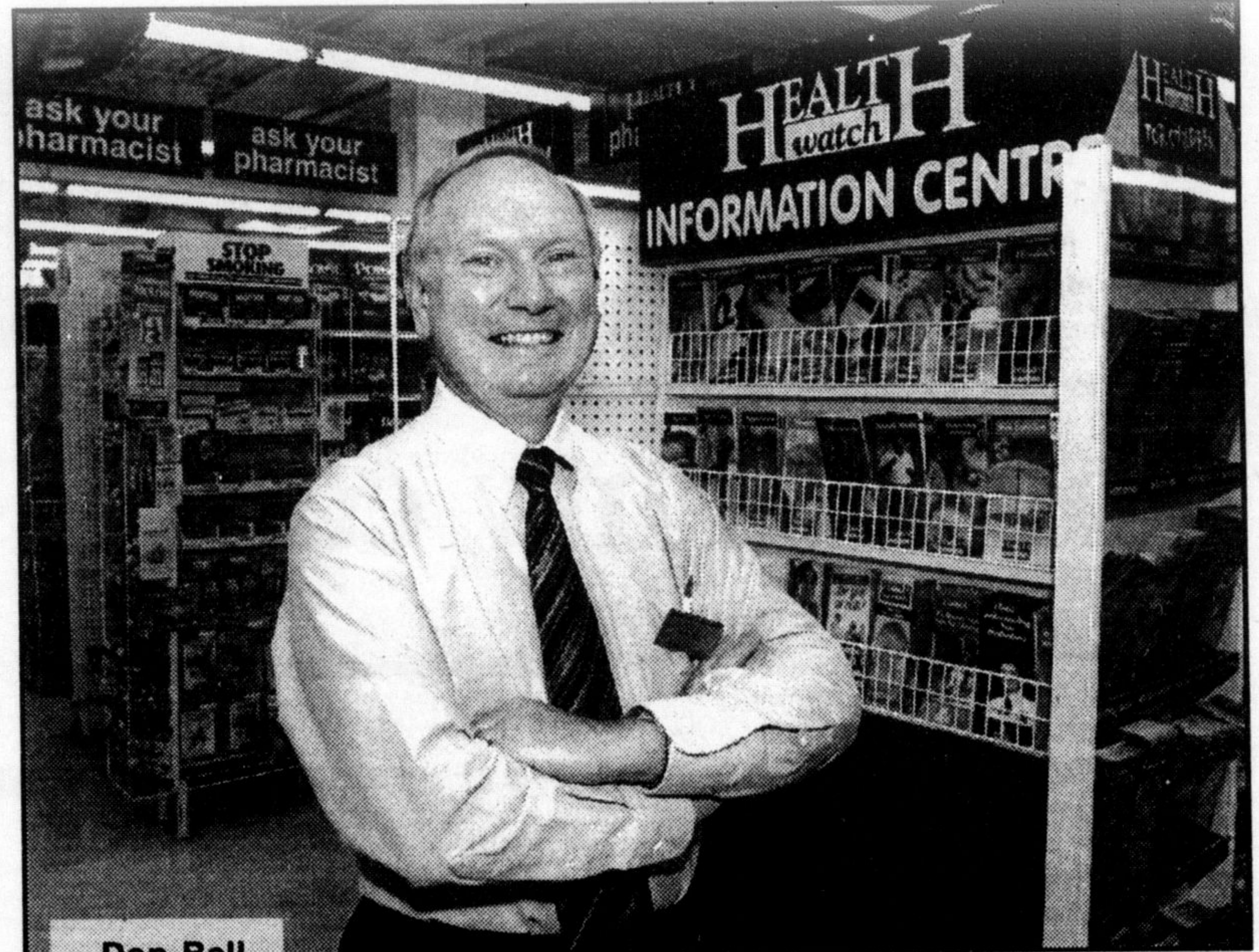
"It's something I really enjoy doing, working with the developing handicapped children. They are just a great group of children."

As the chairman of special events at St. Paul's United Church, Mr. Kocher helps organize the church's ham and turkey dinners, among other things.

"I enjoy doing it (volunteering)," he said.

"If everyone does a little bit, it makes the community that much better."

The award winner will be announced during a gala evening hosted by the Chamber in Milton Saturday, Apr. 8.



Don Bell, owner of Shopper's Drug Mart at Carriage Square, says he feels honoured for his recent nomination for a Milton Chamber of Commerce Community Award.

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## Notice of Liquor Licence Application



The following establishment has applied to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for a liquor licence under the Liquor Licence Act:

**Application for a Sale Licence**

Sweet Water Grill

8 Martin Street, Milton (including outdoor area)

Any resident of the municipality may make written submission as to whether the issuance of the licence is in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents. Submissions must be received no later than **April 29, 2000**. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If a petition is submitted to the Commission, please identify the designated contact person.

**Note:**

The AGCO gives the applicant copies of all objections.

Submissions to be sent to:

Licensing and Registration Department  
Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario  
20 Dundas St. W, 7th Floor,  
Toronto ON M5G 2N6  
Fax: (416)326-5555  
E-mail at [licensing@agco.on.ca](mailto:licensing@agco.on.ca)