

# Big businesses honoured for community spirit

By **LISA CARTWRIGHT**  
The Champion

Citizens honoured three local businesses recently by nominating them for the Milton Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award.

The award is for companies that employ 26 or more people and the nominees include Loblaws Milton Market, Derlan Aerospace Canada and Meritor Suspension Systems Company.

"It shows that they (residents) recognize what we try to do for the community," said Mark Richards, store manager for Loblaws.

David Fisher, director of new programs at Derlan Aerospace Canada, agreed.

"It's always a pleasure to have your successes recognized by the community," Mr. Fisher said.

"It's a confirmation of our place in the community," said John Gates, plant manager of Meritor Suspensions Systems Company.

## Loblaws supports community

Loblaws has been in Milton since 1998. The company provides a one-stop shopping experience, as well as a one-hour photo lab, an in-house dry cleaner, a wine shop, a travel company and more.

Supporting the community is important to Loblaws, Mr. Richards said.

He said the store participates in a number of fundraising events including the Community BBQ Program. Loblaws supplies everything people need for a barbecue and the proceeds go directly to the organization. Loblaws is also the main sponsor of the E.C. Drury High School breakfast program.

Mr. Richards said Loblaws sponsors teams, offers cooking classes and organizes group tours through its facilities.

And Loblaws gets involved because it's a part of the community, he said.

## Derlan employs Miltonians

Derlan Aerospace Canada has been in Milton for the last six years producing gears and drive gear boxes for aircrafts and helicopters. The Canadian company lists General Electric and Westland Helicopters of the United Kingdom as some of its clients.

Registered on the Canadian Stock Market, Derlan is a supporter of the Milton Chamber of Commerce and employs local people, Mr. Fisher said.

## Meritor vital to United Way

Meritor was established in Milton in 1954. The company manufactures coil springs for the automotive industry.

The company is the largest industrial sponsor to the Milton United Way, donating on average about \$30,000 a year.

It does this by corporate donations, as well as payroll deductions and events hosted by employees, Mr. Gates said.

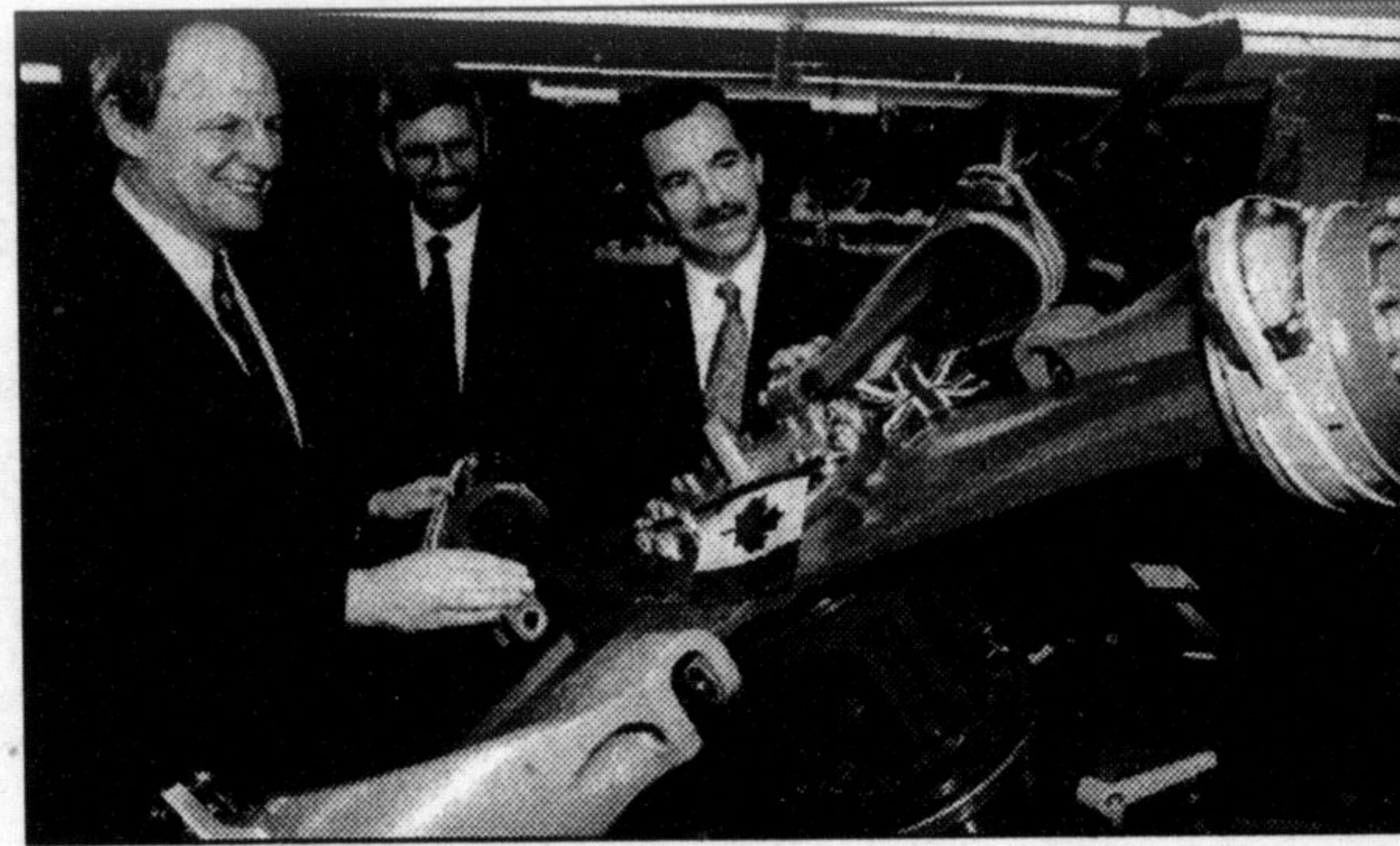
"We see the United Way as a diverse way to support the most interests within the community."

In addition, the company sponsors sports teams including the Merchants and the Milton Minor Ball Association.

Every year, Meritor hosts the Engineer Challenge for grade 8 students. Students are given a problem and the group that comes up with the best solution wins a prize for their school. McMaster University has also received the financial and technical support of Meritor. The university produces a show that visits different schools generating interest in engineering.

Mr. Gates said it's the dedication of all its employees that makes the company successful.

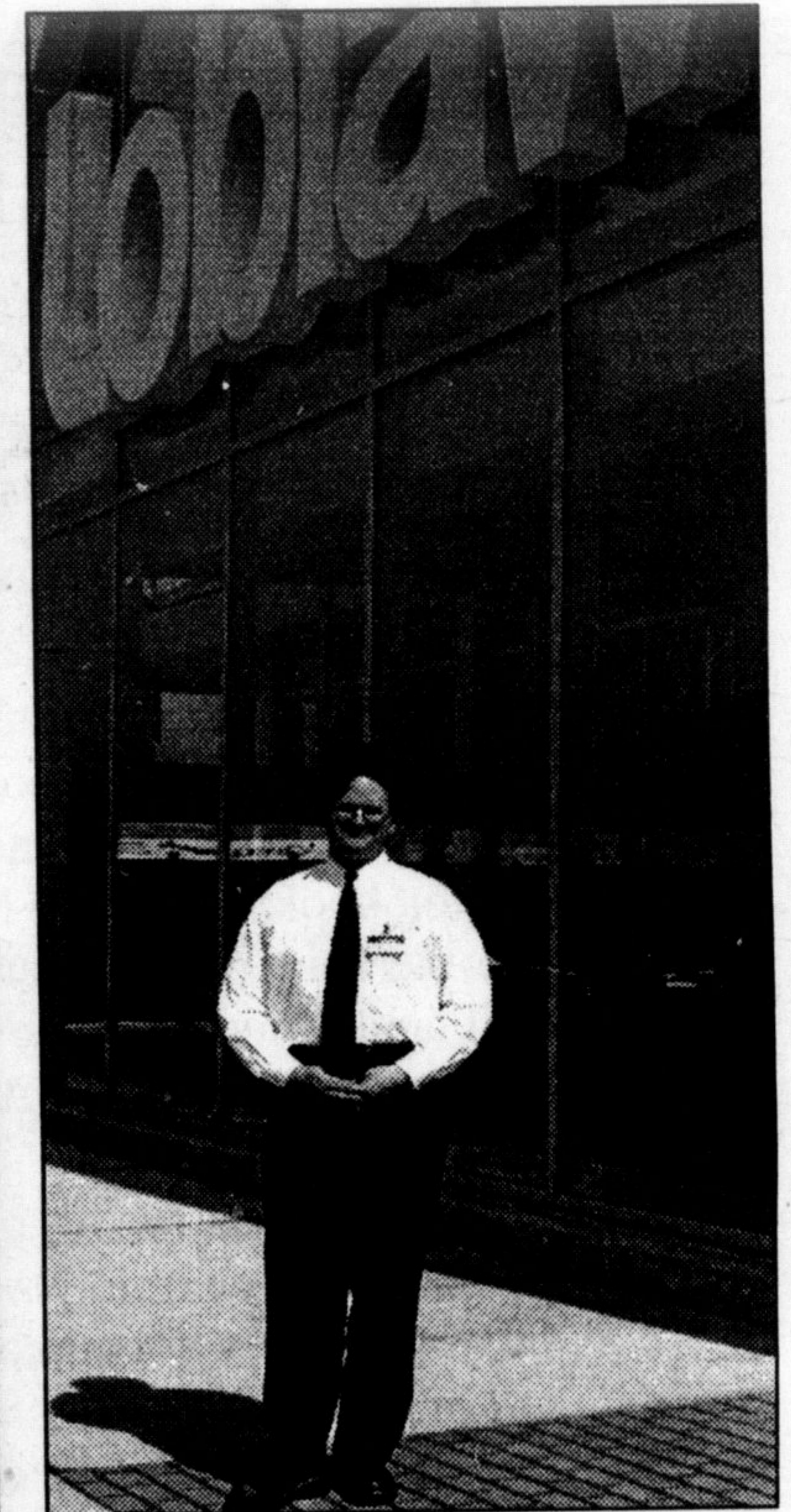
The award winner will be announced during a gala evening April 8 at Granite Ridge Golf Club.



Looking over a finished Lynx helicopter's main rotor head in December, 1995 were (from left) Derlan Aerospace president Ken Beel with visitors Phillip Evans and John Falconer of the United Kingdom-based Westland Helicopters.



Meritor's John Gates, plant manager, and Terry Nova, maintenance manager, show one of the coil springs that the Milton-based company manufactures.



Mark Richards, manager of Loblaws Milton Market, says the store is committed to helping the community.

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