

'De Santis' first publication makes short list for National Business Book Award

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

Just one year after Milton's Solange De Santis published her first book *Life On The Line*, she received word that it had made the shortlist for the National Business Book Award.

Her take on the back-breaking and security-busting work on a General Motors automobile line was culled from 40 of the year's best and brightest books — one of only four to make the cut.

The nomination had her feted at a June 1 luncheon held in the Vanity Fair ballroom of Toronto's King Edward Hotel, where she was ultimately defeated.

The prize went to journalist Ingeborg Boyens for *Unnatural Harvest: How Corporate Science is Secretly Altering our Food*.

But Ms De Santis was happy to at least be beat by an issue de jour.

"The book that won was on genetically-modified food," she confided. "A very hot topic."

A long-time journalist by trade, Ms De Santis has no great explanation for why she decided to drop a cushy (well, sort of)

job as a business reporter in 1991 to go on the line for 18 months.

But she did, and then and dragged a book kicking and screaming out of it.

Her experience with GM abruptly ended when the Scarborough plant closed down. Those she worked with were scattered to other plants in other places. At least one, the one Ms De Santis married soon after, gave it up altogether and started up a small courier company in Milton.

Today, she has lost touch with virtually all her former colleagues.

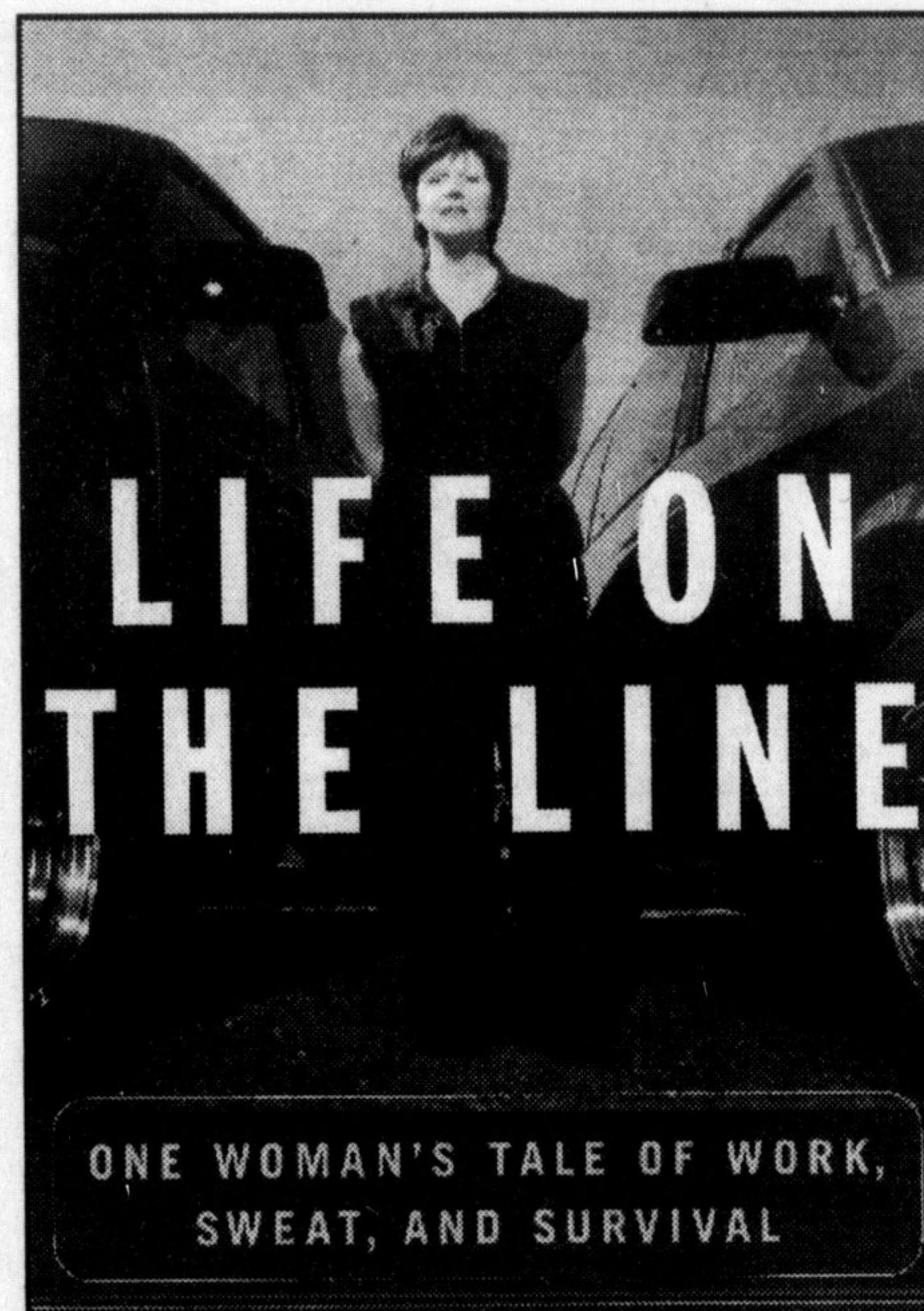
"People do scatter," she said. "They go to other jobs and cities and such."

For her part, Ms De Santis returned to journalism, working for five years at the Wall Street Journal, during which time she she bore her first child and wrote *Life On The Line*.

She left the paper in 1999 and now works from home as a freelance writer while caring for her three-year-old daughter. She also toils as a part-time reporter for the Anglican Journal.

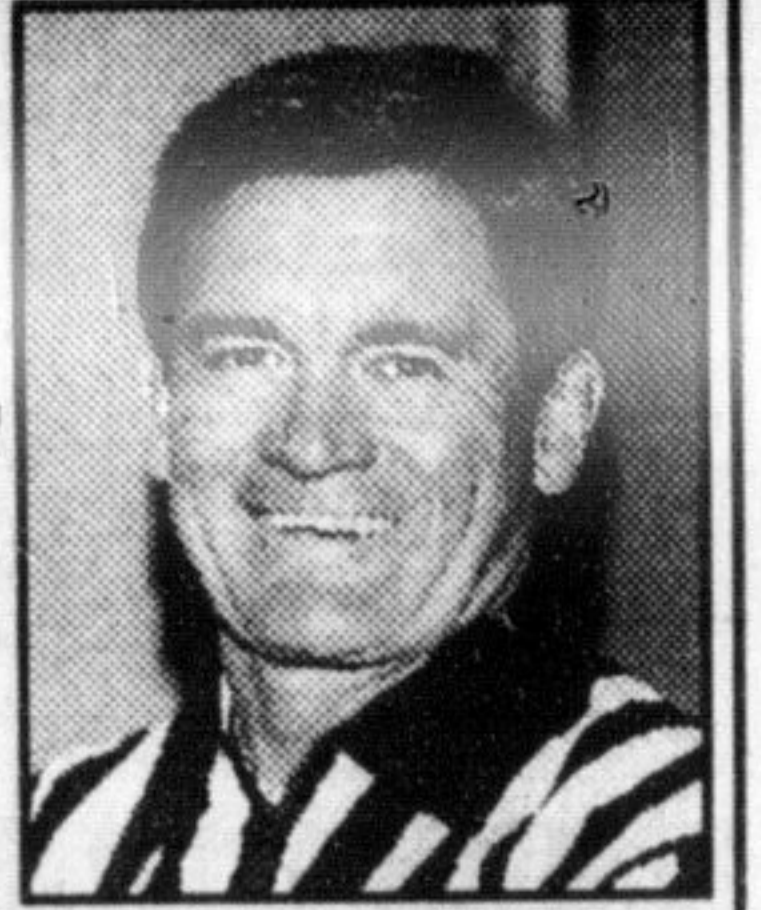
"It's not a church bulletin," she said. "It's a real national newspaper."

In her free time, she draws up a proposal for a new book. She's keeping the topic close to the vest, but will say it's a first-person experience and has nothing to do with business.



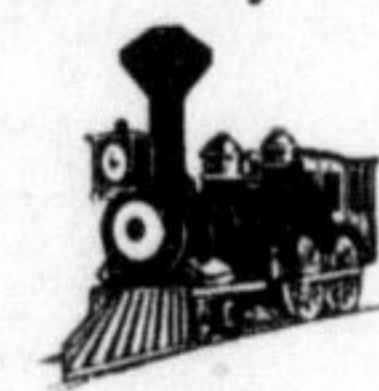
The award-winning book *Life on the Line* centres around Solange De Santis' work on a General Motors automobile line. The book has recently been released in paperback.

Travel with Bruce Hood



HITTING THE RAILS!

THOSE WHO HAVE TRAVELLED BY RAIL IN ANY COUNTRY will know the great feeling there is to sit there and watch the scenery go by. Breathtaking in places, boring in others, and downright crummy in some places, but the overall effect is generally one of good memories. And usually brings people back for more, just like those who take their first cruise! Having spent my years as a youngster in the small village of Campbellville, where there used to be a train station with trains stopping there, and where the trains heading westbound always travelled very slow coming up the Niagara escarpment, with the with smoke billowing from the chimney of the steam engine - it was pretty easy to get attached to trains. During my many years of travel, both in business and for pleasure, I always attempt to go by train, to really get the feel of a country, whether it be in Ontario or across Canada, or the many times in the US, or Europe, or even in Russia - its a great 'way to go'!



MORE AND MORE TRAINS are available for you to enjoy - from the locals here in Ontario which will take you for a couple of hours (Tottenham likely the closest - played golf in that area a few weeks ago and it was quite a treat to hear the old steam engine sound its whistle during its many trips during the day. VIA RAIL ACROSS CANADA is available and usually booked and filled well in advance. EUROPE'S RAIL SYSTEM is legendary - fast, efficient and economical. 'It's the best way to see Europe' is the quote attributed to the many who go that way. Air travel between countries there is very costly, and you don't get near the chance to see the countryside as you do by land. One trip we did a few years ago was from Switzerland (Zurich) through the mountains - you can see your own train still entering the tunnel as you leave it to go to the next one - through Italy to Rome. Just gives one the desire to do more and we are looking forward to a SWISS PASS which we purchased which entitles us to travel throughout their country on their entire network of travel - RAILWAYS, ALPINE POSTAL COACHES, & LAKE BOATS - as well as the urban travel in 35 of their cities. What a great way to see a country!

* * *

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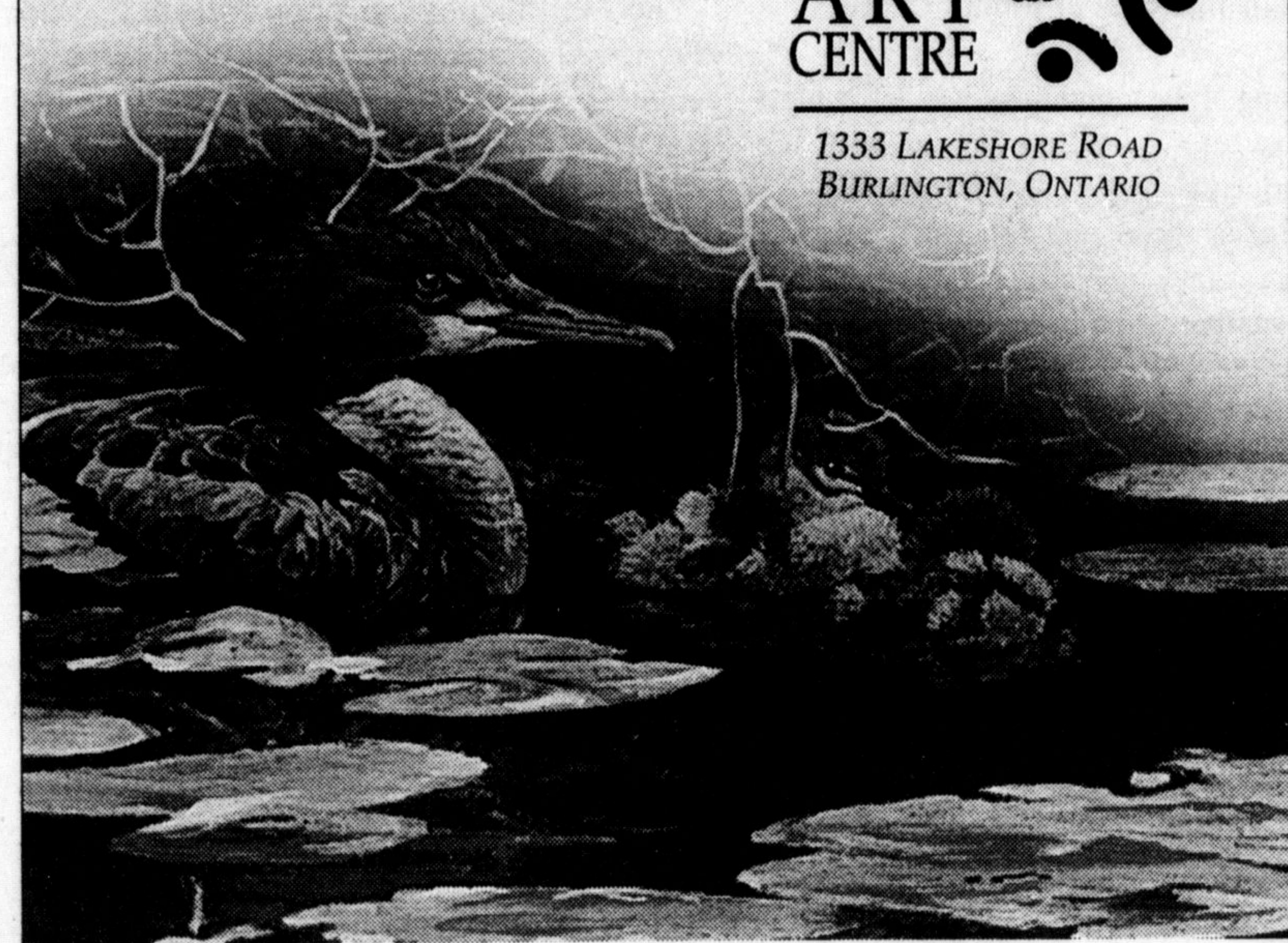
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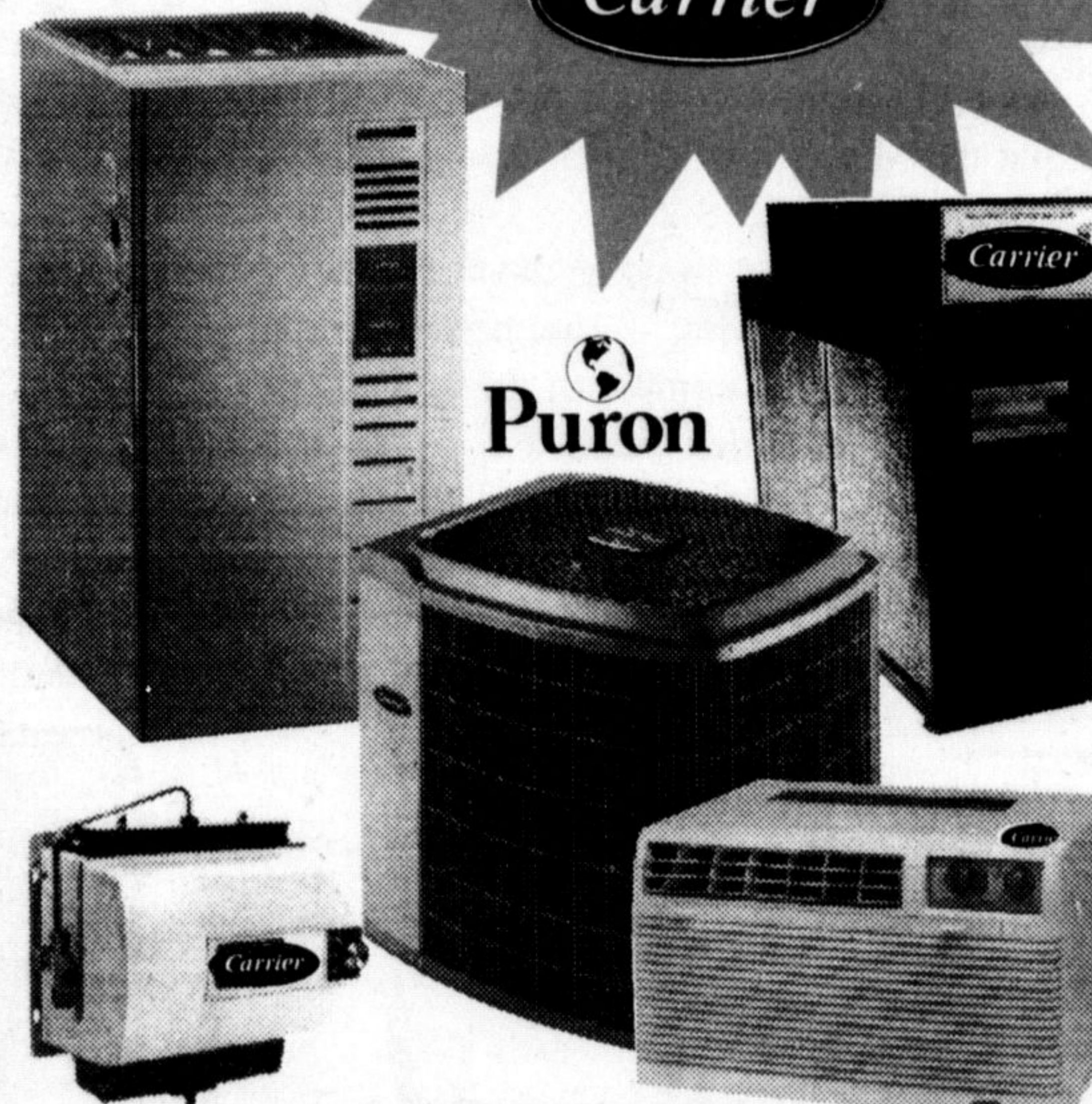
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