

New street name pays tribute to former mayor George Dawson

By **CARRIE BRUNET**
The Champion

It's only a small piece of steel, painted green and white, but to Maureen Magee it's the symbol of her grandfather's legacy in Milton.

The newly-erected street sign, which reads 'Dawson Cres', is a tribute to Ms Magee's grandfather and former mayor of Milton — George Dawson.

The street is located off of Bronte Street, between Main Street and Derry Road.

Mr. Dawson, who died in 1955, served as mayor of Milton between 1942 and 1946. Prior to that, he spent 10 years as a town councillor. He saw the implementation of



George Dawson

sewers in Milton and saw the town through the Second World War.

According to the Town's manager of planning services, Anne Bouck, the process by which the Magees sought Mr. Dawson's name recognized was lengthy.

"The family contacted us years ago," Ms Bouck said. "The process used to be awful."

According to Ms Bouck, the delay was in part due to the lack of development in Milton for a number of years. Furthermore, Mr. Dawson's family wanted the street bearing the Dawson name to be part of "old Milton."

Ms Magee, a former resident of Milton, is relieved to finally see this tribute established.

"It's something I pursued after my mother died," said Ms Magee of her mother Marjorie Magee — Mr. Dawson's only child. "She always admired her father."

The elder Magee died in 1996, having lived in Milton for 75 years.

Naming streets after former mayors is a great tradition in Milton, explained Jim Dills, founding president of the Milton Historical Society.

He cited Heslop Road, Childs Drive and Thompson Road as a few examples.

"We usually put forward names of people who have made major contributions in the area," Mr. Dills said. "They all played parts beyond being just mayor."

Mr. Dawson in particular was active as a business owner in Milton, with the Masonic Lodge and the Milton Bowling Club.

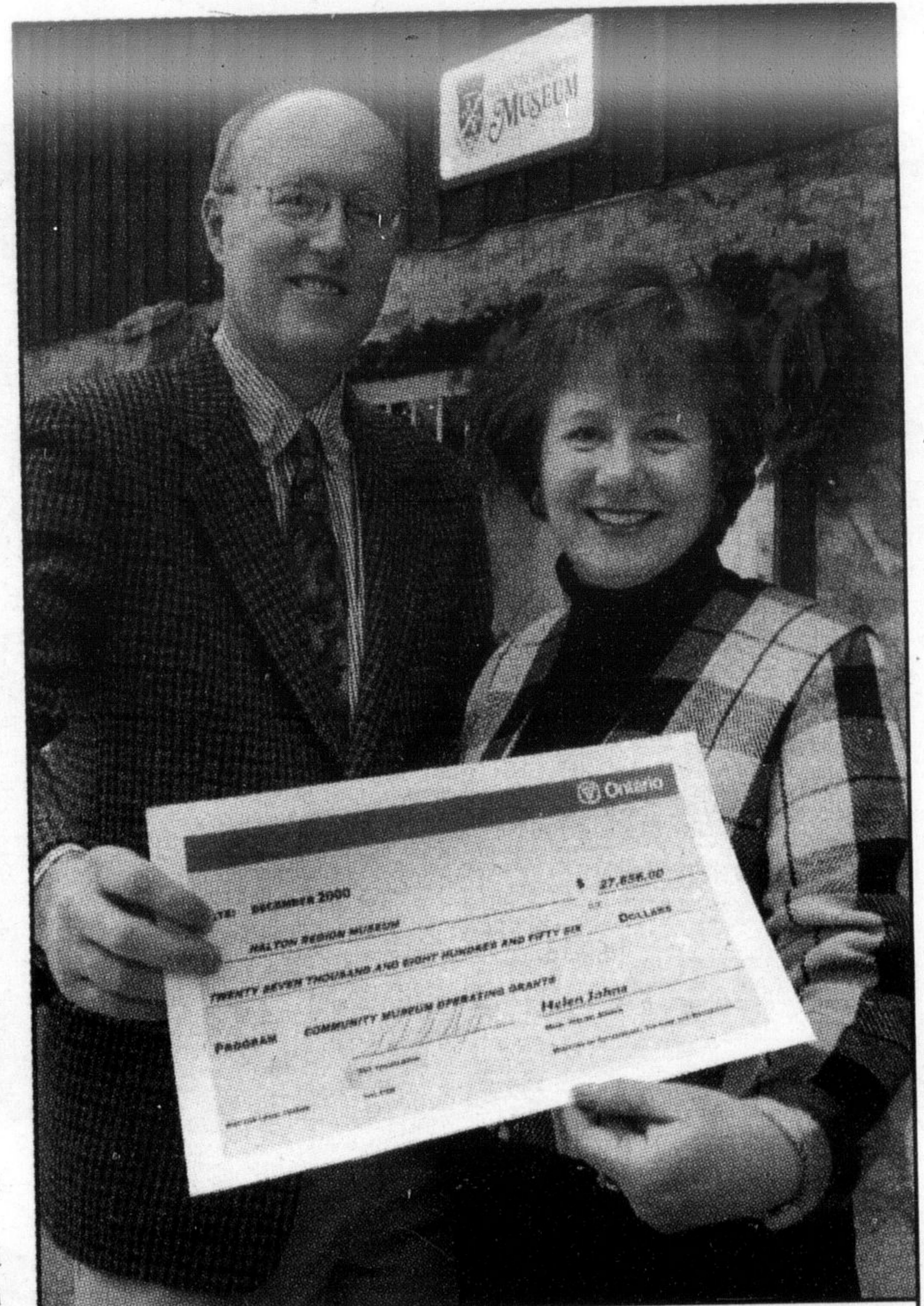


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