Astronaut welcomed back by residents

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However, many other objects, including SkyDome, the Queen Elizabeth Way and Highway 401, are visible.

During the presentation, Col. Hadfield, a graduate of Milton District High School, fielded dozens of questions.

They ranged from the predictable, "How do you go to the bathroom in space?"

(Answer - Very carefully and with the help of air flow to move waste away from the body), to the philosophical, "Did you ever consider letting go?"

(Answer - He actually let go of the space station several times while on his space walk, but remained tethered by a thin cord. He also wore a jet pack on his back which could be used to fly himself back if the tether broke and he were to drift away.)

Had time for some fun

Dressed in his bright blue flight suit, Col. Hadfield told the audience of the Hawaiian party the shuttle crew organized aboard the space station, complete with Hawaiian shirts and mango juice.

Mostly, however, he tried to explain the unique perspective of earth one gets when viewing it from a space shuttle.

"One of the few pastimes on board, of course, is to go to the window and watch the world go by," said Col. Hadfield, who added that complete sunrises and sunsets take place in about 15 seconds.

As the ship came into land, the former Milton pilot said he was extremely glad to be home.

Mission a success: Hadfield

"After two weeks in space and about eight million kilometres, we had done exactly what we had set out to do," he remarked.

With two space flights under his belt, Col. Hadfield said he is looking forward to said.

Milton astronaut Chris Hadfield looks over the commemorative plaque in his honour during his day-long homecoming Saturday. In the evening he (at right) entertained local residents with his special brand of music — that capped a major welcome-home party for the first astronaut to ever perform a space walk.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

In the meantime, he will be travelling to Russia to work in that country's astronaut

was whether deaf people could become astronauts.

While they cannot today, Col. Hadfield reminded the questioner that when he first dreamed of being an astronaut in 1969, no

"My suggestion would be to never say never — do whatever you dream of," he

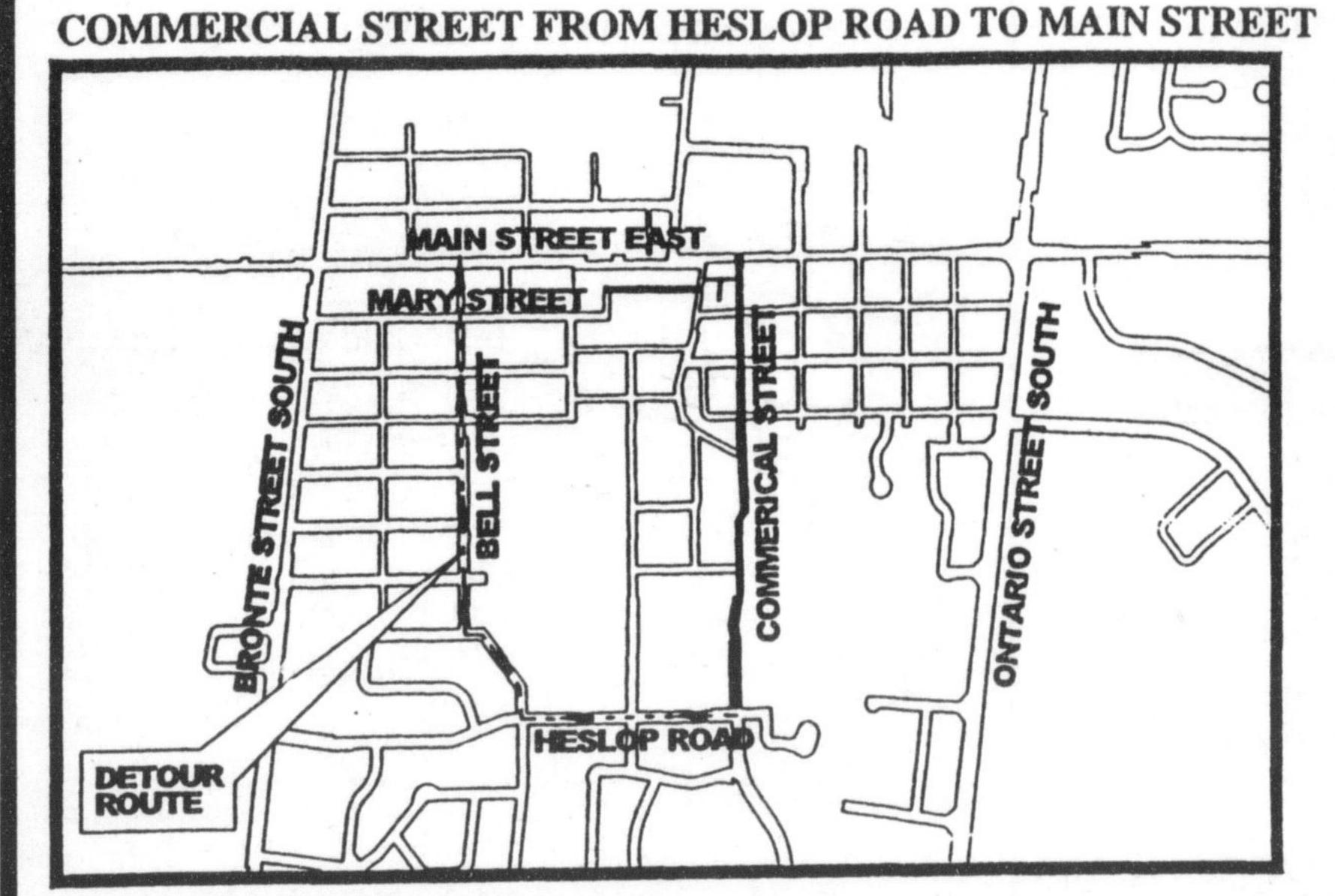
at least one more before retiring.

training program. One of the final questions he was asked

Canadians could become astronauts.



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