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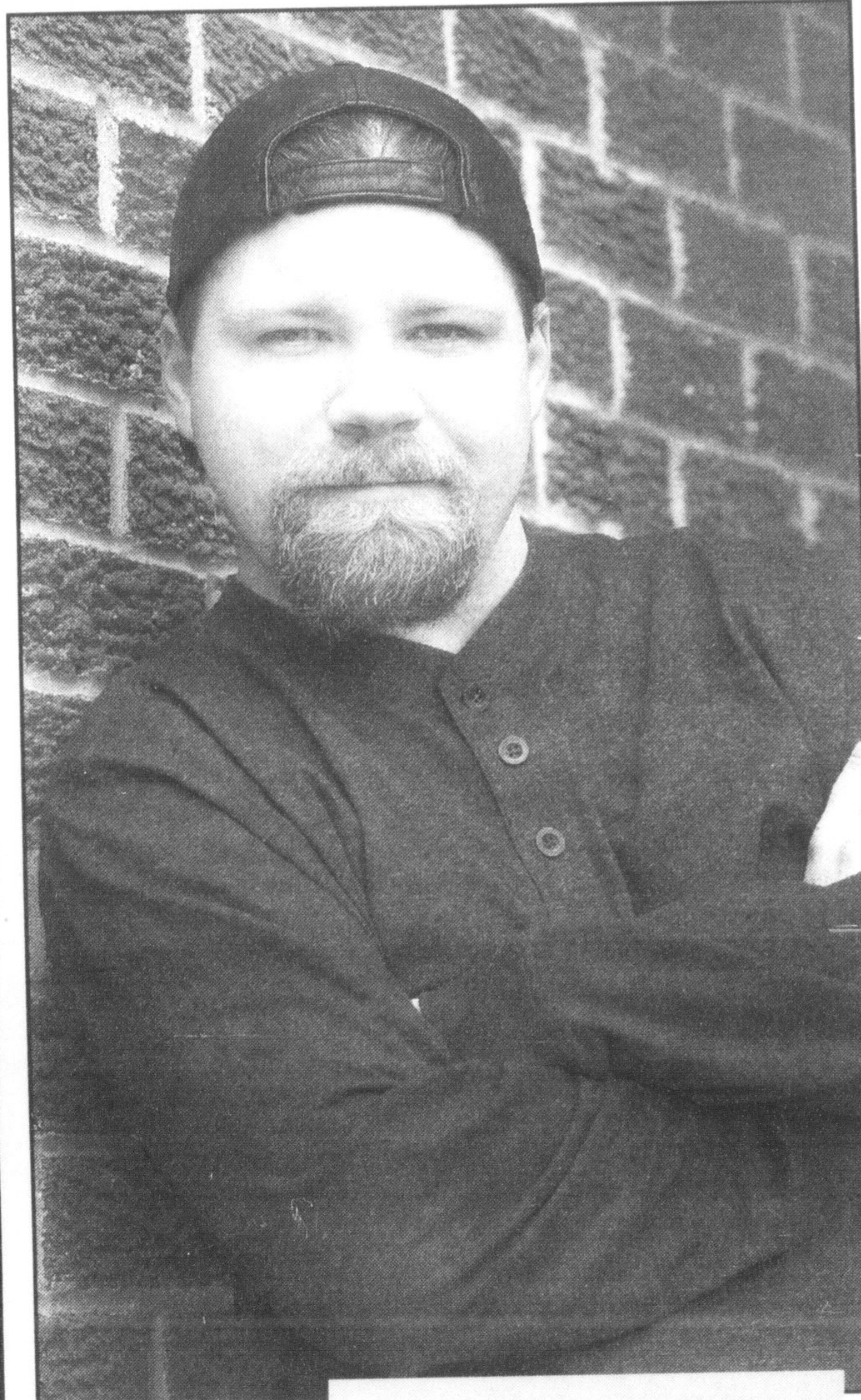
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Arts & Entertainment

DJ gig a big hit for Miltonian

Chuck Lewis thoroughly enjoying his time at Y108

By FANNIE SUNSHINE
The Champion



Not everybody can say they leave work with a smile.

But Miltonian Chuck Lewis is one of the lucky ones. The Y108 DJ, who's known to on-air listeners as Chuck Evans, got his big break in radio several years ago when he met high-ranking individuals in the business.

"It's pretty funny, I never started out thinking I would be in radio," he said.

"I was talking to a few people and they thought I'd do well in radio so I talked to them about how to get into the industry. I went to Humber College (radio broadcasting) and did my internship at Classic Hits AM 96 in Cambridge and they hired me on. I loved it."

Because the 32-year-old knew what to expect from the radio business, he wasn't surprised by the long hours and the hefty workload.

"It's not a 9 to 5 schedule. I'm normally on air Saturday nights, Sunday afternoons and Monday nights. My signature show is the Saturday Night Request Fest, where I turn it over to the listeners and they decide what I play. It's just me and the phones and the radio."

Mr. Lewis does find people tend to have misconceptions about what his job entails.

"When we take people on tours they are absolutely amazed. People think we're running around trying to find songs to play. There's not a whole lot involved because the set is already determined."

Although he said some radio personalities are in the business for the pay-check, he can't say the same for himself.

"I enjoy 99 per cent of the songs I play. A lot of DJs can't say that. It's not necessary (to like the music played) but it helps."

What helps to make going into work a breeze for Mr. Lewis is working with people he respects and admires.

"I love the people I work with. The great thing about radio is that it's flexible. With radio we can literally change our programming just like that if something (breaking news) is going on."

During his spare time, Mr. Lewis plays bass for his band Skinny Leonard, a Lynyrd Skynyrd cover band.

"We play in bars across southern Ontario and we did a tour of the East Coast last year. I do this to relax."

One particular voice on Y108 probably sounds quite familiar to many Miltonians. That's because it belongs to local resident Chuck Lewis — who says he's having a great time playing the tunes at the Hamilton-based FM station.

Photo by
GRAHAM PAINE

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Milton District High School senior jazz band earns silver

The Milton District High School Senior Jazz Band played its way to a silver award standing at the Musicfest Canada 2002 competition last Friday in Calgary.

The 17 local musicians qualified for the national competition at the regionals held in Toronto in March.

"We earned the silver award, which is the second highest level you could get," said Stephen Maule, conductor of the high school jazz band. "They handed out many silver awards. It means we were at the second highest level for the standard they set."

More than 8,000 performed during the weekend competition.

The jazz band, made up of mostly grade 12 and OAC students, performed three pieces — swing, ballad and shuffle, he continued.

"They did extremely well," Mr. Maule said, adding the band practices once a week. "I'm very proud of them. They played well. They were able to meet students from across the country and attend workshops with professional musicians. This was the first time our jazz band had made it to this competition."

Art show at Victoria Park June 1

Miltonians will have the chance to browse through various pieces of art during an outdoor art show June 1.

The show is being organized by the Milton Fine

Arts Society and will take place at Victoria Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about the event, call (905) 878-7397.