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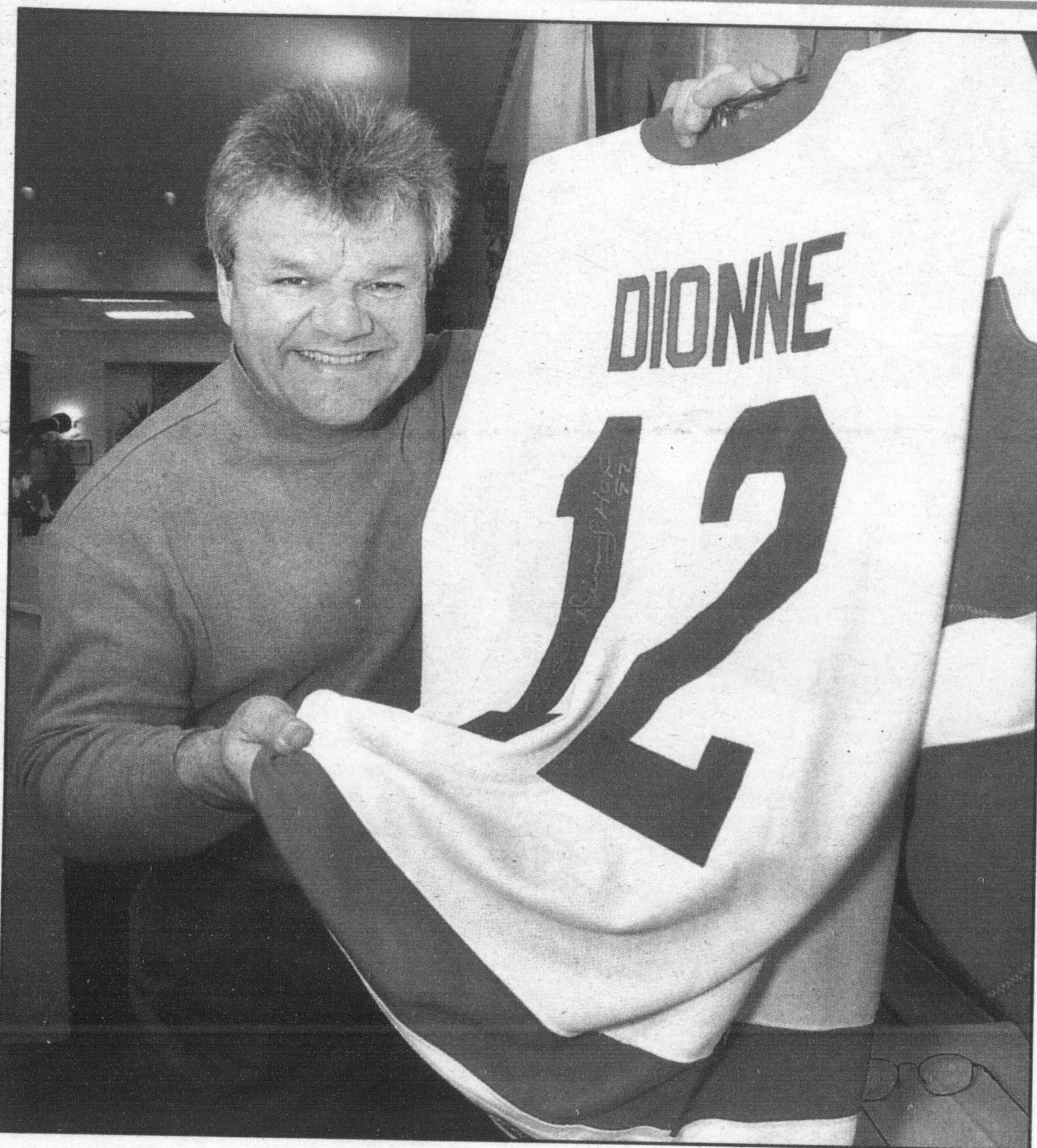


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Marcel Dionne, who was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1992, holds up his autographed Detroit Red Wings jersey, one of many items up for grabs at the Sports Celebrity Dinner and Auction Tuesday night at Granite Ridge Golf Club.

Chamber of Commerce scores with first sports celebrity dinner

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Milton helped support the future by honouring the past at Granite Ridge Golf Club Tuesday night.

Former NHL greats Bobby

Hull and Marcel Dionne highlighted a star-studded cast of special guests at the Milton Chamber of Commerce's Sports Celebrity Dinner and Auction.

The inaugural event — which included appearances by Mr. Toronto Argonaut Mike "Pinball" Clemons, Olympic women's hockey gold medalist Geraldine Heaney, harness rac-

ing star Ron Waples and ex-NHL Dale Hawerchuk (a late replacement for Borje Salming) — will help the Chamber expand its scholarship program that benefits the three local high schools as well as Milton's Junior Achievement.

Chamber executive director Sandy Martin said she didn't

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Development figures continue to explode

By **JASON MISNER**
The Champion

The big pipe drawing water from Lake Ontario into Milton is proving to be a big reason why the town's industrial and residential base continues to explode.

2002's year-end economic report shows Milton accumulated more than 568,000 square feet of new business space, totalling more than \$53 million worth of construction.

Also, there were 1,776 building permits issued last year.

Economic development officer Andrew Siltala said since the pipeline came on line in the fall of 2000, it's opened up a whole new world for Milton.

"It's expanded our ability to service areas," Mr. Siltala said. "It's driven a lot of the growth."

From an industrial perspective, in each of the last three years Milton has seen more than a half-million square feet of industrial, commercial and institutional space created.

This type of heavy industrial expansion generates about \$300,000 in yearly proper-

ty taxes.

From a housing perspective, permits have soared since 2000, showing the pipe's impact. In 2001, the Town secured about 1,600 building permits; in 1999 it issued about 200.

Mr. Siltala said Milton has already designated what lands will be used for housing based on its Official Plan, a municipality's main blueprint for growth.

It's a similar story for industrial development. New development will be contained to a large business park, southeast of Hwy. 401, near James Snow Parkway.

The Town still has 700 acres left in its first phase of industrial development. Once that builds out, another 1,500 acres will be made available.

It's all part of the Town's goal to create a sustainable community, where people work, live and play. It also helps in getting rid of the bedroom community image.

It seems to be working. The town's population has increased by 30 per cent in the last three years. As of December 2002, it was 42,100; it was 31,000 in 1999.

The Town's objective is to sell 1,500 building permits per year and 600,000 square feet of business space per year over the next decade.

Region wins for Big Pipe

Halton Region has been awarded for the 'Big Pipe' project, which brought Lake Ontario water to Milton.

The American Public Works Association named the initiative its Project of the Year over \$10 million in the environmental category.

The 'Big Pipe', 15.5 km long, cost \$30 million and opened in the fall of 2000.

The project was also recognized for being completed ahead of schedule.

"We are very proud of the professionalism and commitment of our staff, and the teamwork of our partners that made this project a success," said Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline.

To avoid any environmental harm, the pipe was tunnelled underneath Sixteen Mile Creek. About 100,000 man hours were devoted to complete the project over a 10-month period.

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INSERTS

• Friday, January 24 •

- A & P • Loblaw's • Shoppers Drug Mart • Zellers
- IDA • Cristello's Village Market • Food Basics
- Canadian Tire • No Frills • Fortinos • Lazy Boy
- Home Depot • Leather by Mann • Sobeys
- Acton Garden Market • Ashley Furniture
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