



Community Page

Work to preserve local heritage recognized

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

To most Miltonians, they're nameless, faceless heroes. They were young men from town who most likely had no idea what they were about to face when they left to defend their country in the First World War.

Some of them never returned. When Councillor John Challinor was asked by Milton historian Jim Dills to work on a project that would give names and faces to these heroes, he gladly accepted. For the past two years, he has been collecting the records of the Milton and Nassagaweya soldiers of the First World War who died in battle.

Now his research for the project is nearly done. The lives of more than 70 soldiers have been researched and their stories have been compiled into a 100-page manuscript.

Along with the satisfaction of a job well done, Mr. Challinor has the recognition of his fellow townfolk, being the recipient of the Milton Historical Society's Educational Award.

"I was obviously surprised when I got the telephone call (saying I'd won)," said Mr. Challinor. "I was delighted, and I'm thankful Jim gave me the opportunity to participate."

Mr. Challinor was one of six recipients who were recognized at the 2004 Milton Heritage Awards, held February 15 at Hugh Foster Hall. The ceremony was a combined effort of the Milton Historical Society, which gave out three awards, and Heritage Milton, which also gave out three.

"The awards are an important thing. It makes the community better balanced by remembering where Milton got its start," said Bruce Carlin, special events co-ordinator for the Milton Historical Society, adding the two historical groups "complement each other."

Mr. Challinor, who attended the ceremony as Heritage Milton's acting chairman as well as an award recipient, explained that Heritage Milton reports to council through the department of planning and development. Its goal is to preserve the community's historic and heritage features.

The three winners of awards given by Heritage Milton were Jim and Phyllis Gorman, for restoration of a non-designated historic home; Andrew and Caroline Kocher for infill development sympathetic to a historic neighbourhood; and George and Sharon Garrett for restoration of a non-designated historic home.

Although neither Andrew Kocher nor his wife were in town to accept their award, Mr. Kocher said the experience of re-building their home and then being recognized for it was gratifying.

The couple lives in a house on Mary Street

built in 1888. It suffered severe damage in a fire last year and had to be demolished, but its owners decided to re-build the home true to the period in which it was built.

"We love the character and charm of the house and wanted to replace it. The exact house we had before was marvelous. We just loved it," Mr. Kocher said.

He said he felt honoured to win the award, but recognition had nothing to do with his reasons for embarking on the project.

"I did it totally for the love of the old charm and character historic homes depict."

Jim Gorman said he and his wife, Phyllis, felt proud to receive an award for the restoration of their Charles Street home, a Georgian-style home built in 1882.

"We've lived here for 33 years," he said, "and the house was totally renovated when we purchased it. But after being here this long and raising four kids, it was time to do some work inside."

It quickly snowballed from there. "When we started, we got a bit carried away and went a little crazy," Mr. Gorman said.

It was the house that first attracted the couple to Milton more than three decades ago.

"My wife and I have often said that in our married life — we've been married 42 years — it's (the house) one of the best decisions we've made."

Moffat restoration applauded

George and Sharon Garrett, who couldn't be reached for comment, were recognized for the full restoration of their Moffat home, a one-and-a-half-storey limestone block house built in 1841.

Besides Mr. Challinor, the two other recipients of awards presented by the Milton Historical Society were Marion Detlor, winner of the Visual Arts Award, and the late Mel Robinson, the recipient of the Writing Award.

Marion Detlor was recognized for her many water colour paintings that have included as subjects many of Milton's historic buildings. In 1997, she joined with a group of local artists to form the Fine Arts Society of Milton.

Ms Detlor's award was accepted on her behalf by her granddaughter, Megan Detlor.

Mel Robinson was posthumously presented with the Writing Award for his weekly Canadian Champion columns 'Milton Then and Now', which were gathered and published as 'Memories of Milton'.

The book anecdotally deals with family life in the early 1900s as remembered by Mr. Robinson.

"These personal recollections make for some interesting reading," Bruce Carlin said. "Lots of people say it's neat to read how life really was."

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

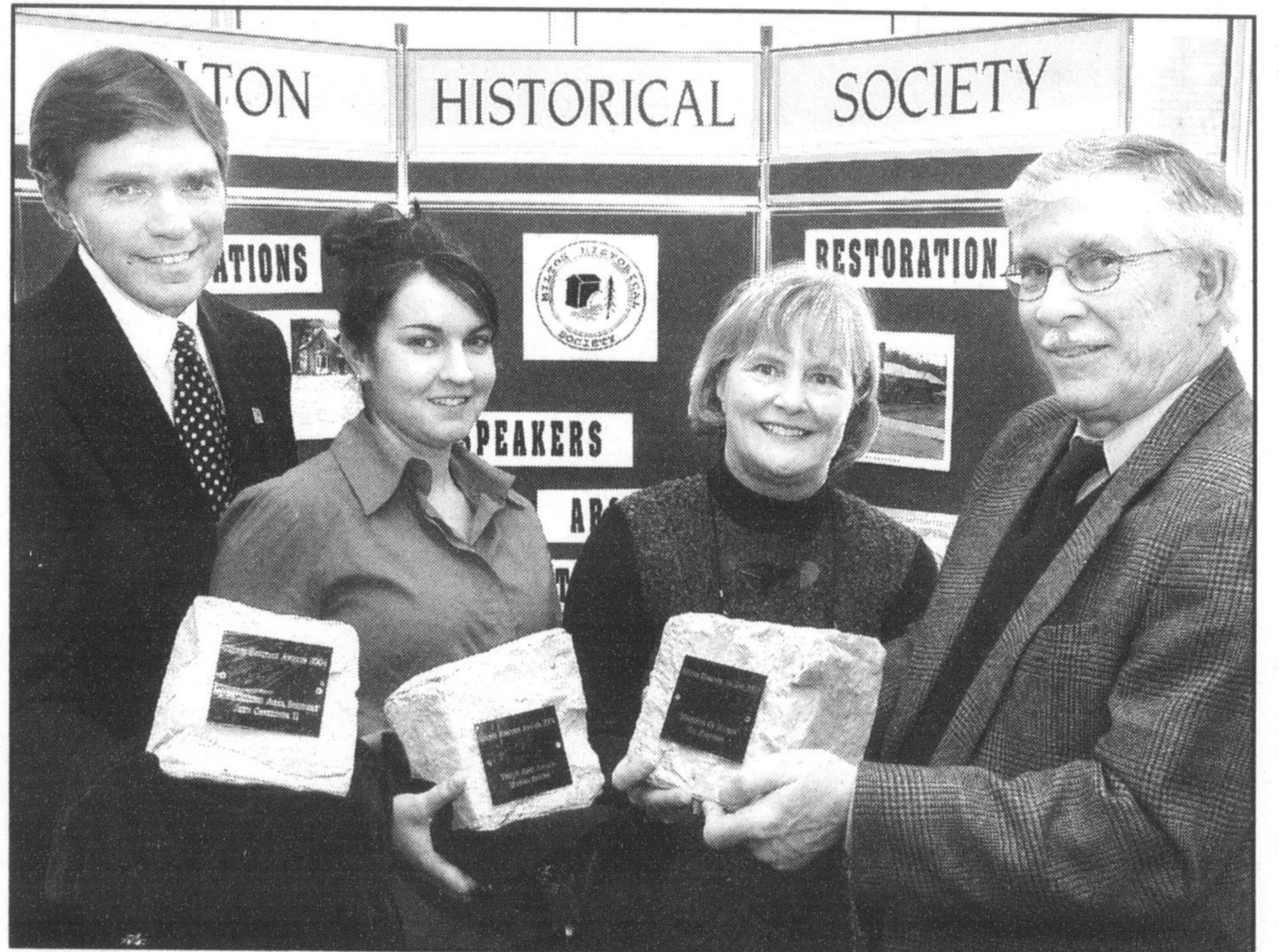


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

From left, Councillor John Challinor displays his Educational Award while Megan Detlor shows off the Visual Arts Award she accepted on behalf of her grandmother, Marion Detlor. Margaret Wilson and George Robinson proudly hold the Writing Award they accepted on behalf of their father, the late Mel Robinson.

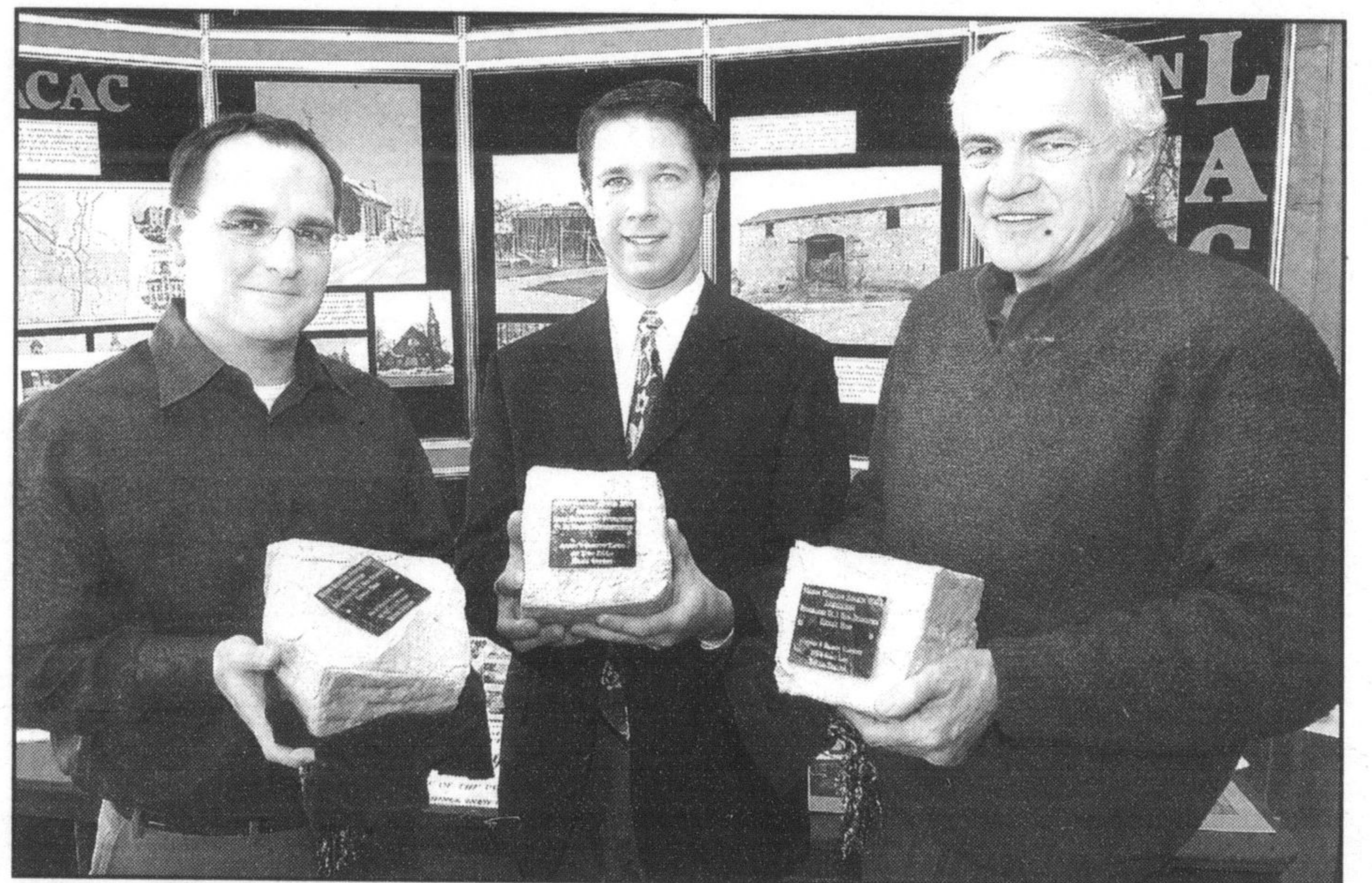


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Chris Gorman (left) accepts the 'Restoration of a Non-Designated Historic Home' award on behalf of his parents, Jim and Phyllis Gorman. Andrew Kocher (centre) accepts the award for 'Infill Development Sympathetic to a Historic Neighbourhood' presented to him and his wife, Caroline, for their Mary Street home. And Ken Keates, of Heritage Milton, accepts an award on behalf of George and Sharon Garrett for 'Restoration of a Non-Designated Historic Home'.

TVCOGECO

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Cogeco Cable Channel 14

Programming Schedule – Tuesday, February 24th - Monday, March 1, 2004

Tuesday, February 24		Wednesday, February 25		Thursday, February 26		Friday, February 27		Saturday, February 28		Sunday, February 29		Monday, March 1	
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	4pm	TVCogeco Sports: Halton High School Basketball Final	10:30pm	TVCogeco Sports: Halton High School Basketball Final	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition
5:30pm	Seniors Showcase	5:30pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton	5:30pm	Osler Health Connection	8:00pm	2003 Georgetown Hockey Heritage Awards	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5:30pm	With Good Taste
6:30pm	Optimist TV Bingo (Live)	6:30pm	Be Inspired	6:30pm	Money Week					5:30pm	Be Inspired	6:30pm	Faces-Kranks & Barnes
8:00pm	Halton Hills Council - Feb 16	7:00pm	Swap Talk (Live)	7:00pm	The Issue Is...					6:30pm	Seniors Showcase	7:00pm	Be Inspired
		8:00pm	Milton Council Feb. 23	8:00pm	Main Street					7:00pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton	7:00pm	Money Week
										8:00pm	Money Week	8:00pm	Faces - Kerr & Day
										8:30pm	Faces - Kerr & Day		

TVCogeco Sports: Halton High School Basketball Final - Saturday 4pm & Sunday 10:30am