

# West, Kingsbury recognized for volunteer efforts

By **ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER**

*Special to The Champion*

Two rural Miltonians will receive provincial awards for their volunteer efforts this week in Hamilton.

Mike West, chairman of the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee (NCCC), will be given a 15-year Volunteer Service Award for his volunteer efforts with various committees and groups in Halton.

His work has earned him the respect and admiration of his peers. Nominated for the provincial volunteer award by Jean Woods, a member of the NCCC and the Rural Watch program, she praised Mr. West's accomplishments.

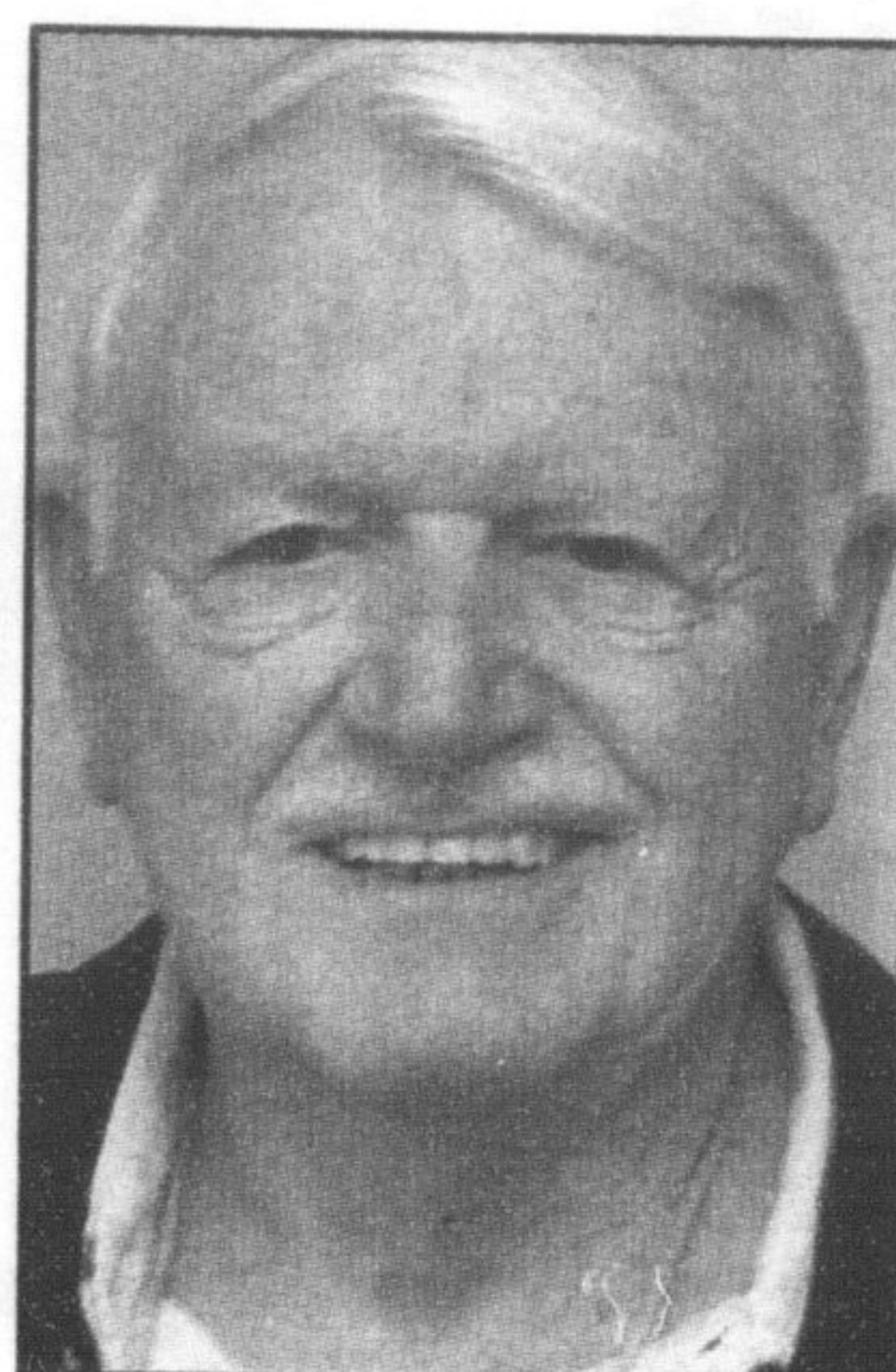
"I wanted him to get special recognition because he has done so much," said Ms Woods. "I suspect he has done a lot we do not know about as well."

"Mike has been the driving force behind so many great things in the community, like supporting the seat belt and baby seat initiative that Jan (Mowbray) took on as a project," added Tim Kingsbury, a member of the NCCC and chairman of the Halton Region Museum Foundation.

"I could go on and on about Mike's accomplishments and, now, into his later years, I'm still amazed by how much he still does, how many causes he takes on."



**Tim Kingsbury**



**Mike West**

Mr. West has undertaken many initiatives over the past two decades including the Nassagaweya Crime Prevention Committee Rural Watch Program (1986) and the NCCC (since 1993).

In addition to this award, Mr. West was presented with the Halton Regional Police Services Lyn Benson Award in 1999 for

his commitment to the NCCC.

"It's good that the government recognizes the importance of volunteers," he said. "Of course I'm honoured to receive this award."

As well as praising Mr. West for his efforts, Mr. Kingsbury will receive a Volunteer Service Award of his own. The five-year award will be his first provincial honour for his volunteer efforts, although he has a host of various other awards for his dedication to improving the community.

"I have been a volunteer for one thing or another since I was a kid," said Mr. Kingsbury.

"I have served on many boards, like Milton LACAC, Milton Historical Society executive, and organizations such as Telephone Pioneers. I have served on boards like Halton Women's Place for a number of years and briefly on the Halton Learning Foundation — a foundation that, as a trustee for the board of education, I helped found. Maybe being a trustee and involved in causes like saving Percy Merry Public School would be more where I'd be known as a volunteer. Of course, one is always honoured to receive an award for their volunteer efforts, and we are fortunate to have many dedicated people in our community who are tireless volunteers."

The Volunteer Service Awards are presented by the Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration at ceremonies being held in Hamilton.

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