

# ChampionCountry

## Memorial garden in honour of Nassagaweya's West

By Robin Downton-Poirier  
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

A memorial is in the final planning stages to commemorate the memory of Nassagaweya's Mike West, a long-time volunteer who passed away in November 2004.

The memorial, initiated by the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee (NCCC) of which West was chair for 11 years, will be located in front of the Nassagaweya Community Centre on Guelph Line in Brookville.

The site was seen as fitting since it's a central location and the meeting place of the NCCC, said Tim Kingsbury, a member of the committee.

"The Nassagaweya Community Centre is the location where the NCCC has met for years, where you will see awards and recognition of the committee and, in a small part, Mike's accomplishments. It is also a centre point and gathering place for the rural community," said Kingsbury.

West accomplished a great deal in Nassagaweya such as building a very

strong relationship with Halton Regional Police, initiating programs and working for the betterment of the rural community, said Kingsbury.

The memorial is a way to recognize and honour West's efforts, he added. "Mike was always working on community projects, regardless of what it was. Whether it was looking at speed limits on roads, getting a radar message board, doing roadside clean-up, or doing studies of traffic in the rural community, Mike was quick to jump on and support it," said Kingsbury.

"From the moment Mike left us, the community and the NCCC have wanted to do something to recognize this great man, his accomplishments and his legacy. It will be a permanent recognition of Mike and it will also be a reminder to the community that great things can happen if people are willing to give of themselves for public service as Mike so willingly did."

The design for the memorial was prepared in co-operation with the Town of Milton and approved by the NCCC, said Cindy Lunau, the NCCC organizer for the memorial.

She said the garden memorial con-

cept will include several shrubs, a bench and a plaque.

"The concept plan for the memorial landscape garden includes a Nassagaweya stone with a plaque, a bench, interlocking brick and shrub plantings," said Lunau.

"It will be a wonderful addition to the landscaping of this community hall, and a fitting tribute to Mike who was so devoted to Nassagaweya."

Although details have yet to be finalized, the NCCC will accept responsibility for funding the memorial and the public is welcome to contribute through the committee, said Lunau.

She added that NCCC members are looking forward to being involved in the construction process, scheduled to begin this summer.

"The committee members have committed to raising the necessary funds and look forward to hands-on participation in the construction," said Lunau.

"It will be a loving tribute to a chairman, volunteer, neighbour, friend and mentor."



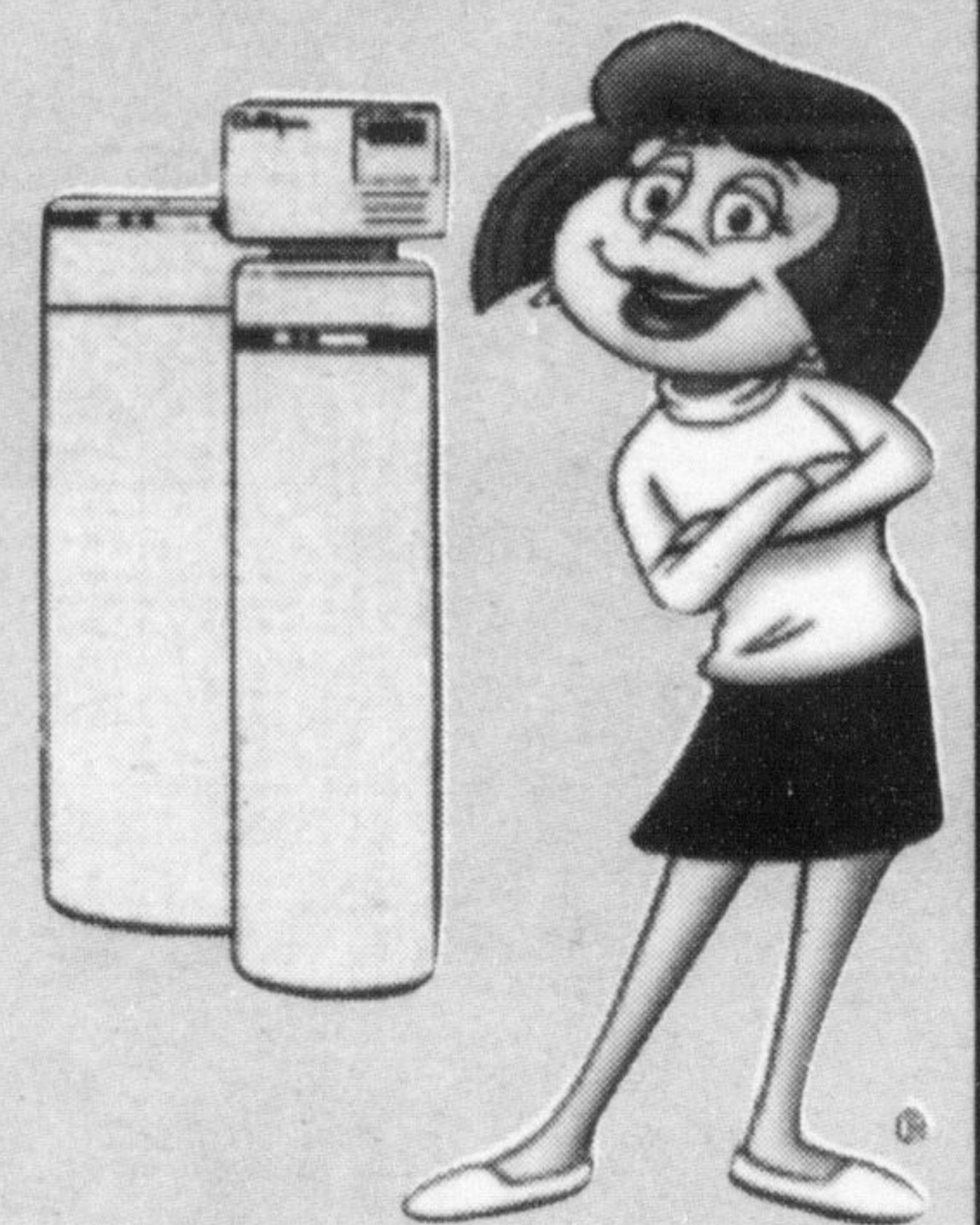
FILE PHOTO BY GRAHAM PAINE  
Joy Haynes, longtime partner of the late Mike West, shows a photo of West receiving a police award for his work in Nassagaweya. The shot was taken at the Nassagaweya Community Centre where West will be honoured with a memorial.

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