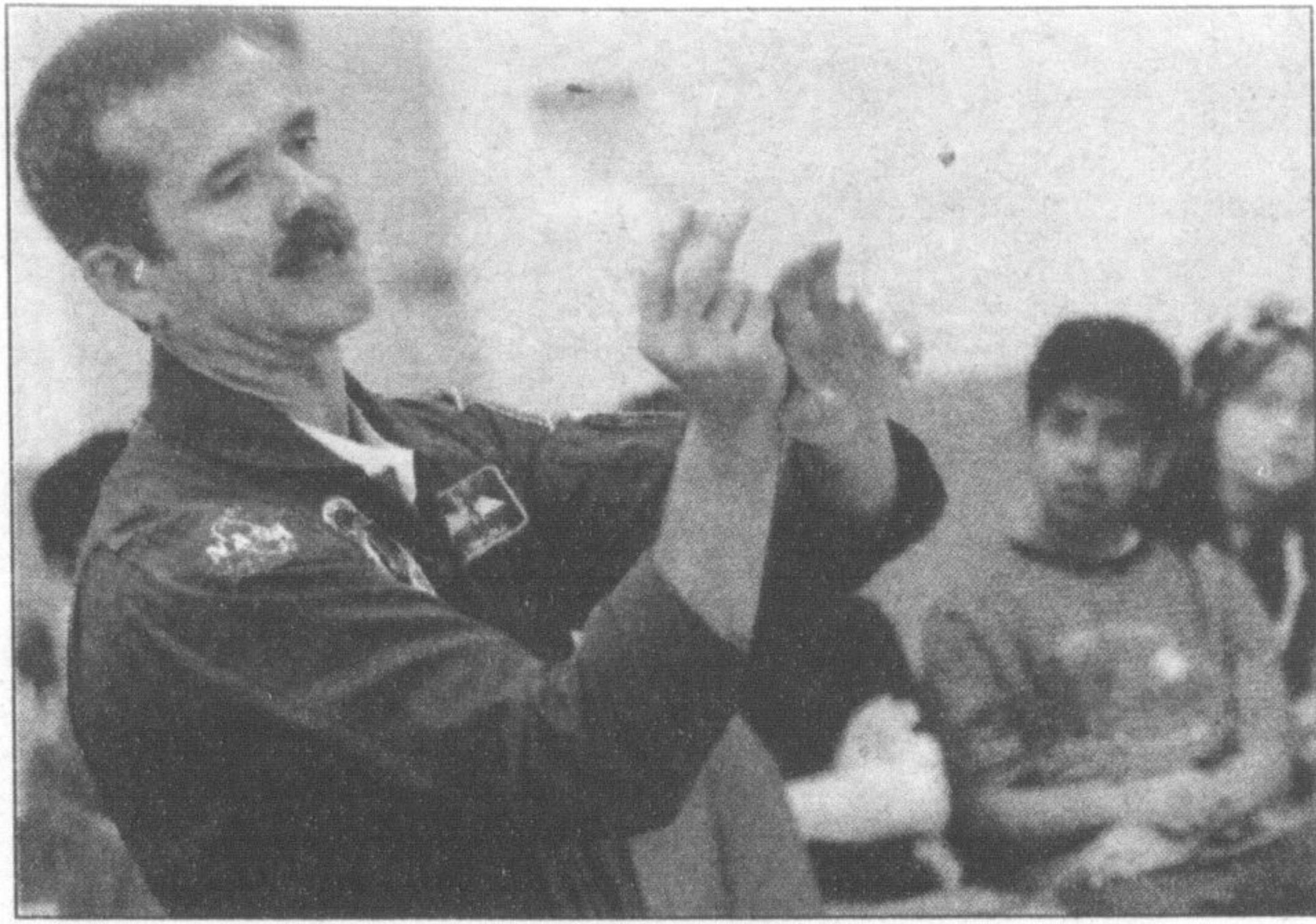


Astronaut wows students with space talk



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION
Astronaut and Milton native Chris Hadfield speaks to students at the public school named after him and looks over a Canadian flag signed by students and staff.

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Chris Hadfield Public School students have been given a challenge by their namesake that's out of this world.

In addition to wowing the youngsters with pictures of space shuttles and planets, native Miltonian and famed astronaut Chris Hadfield gave them the task of designing furniture that would be suitable to use in space.

The pupils packed into the school's gymnasium Wednesday morning to get up close and personal with Hadfield, who took time out of his busy schedule

to return home for a visit.

For their assignment, he asked the students to design items such as a chair, table and bed that could be used on the moon or Mars. He told them to be mindful of several things like gravity, weight and available space.

He explained that plans are in the works to one-day set up a permanent human base on the moon, while a Canadian spaceship is going to land on Mars next month.

Hadfield emphasized the importance and value of space exploration.

"You can't understand everything about earth by just looking at the earth.

You have to look at other planets to try to understand what's normal," he said.

"The earth is this little, tiny thing in the middle of everything. If we want to understand everything, we can't just stay on our little, tiny speck — we have to start exploring the universe."

The astronaut went on to enlighten the students about recent discoveries in space.

"We found some really cool things around Saturn in the past few months," he said. "We've been looking at the moons of Saturn, and one is the brightest, shiniest thing in the whole solar

• see SCHOOL on page A9

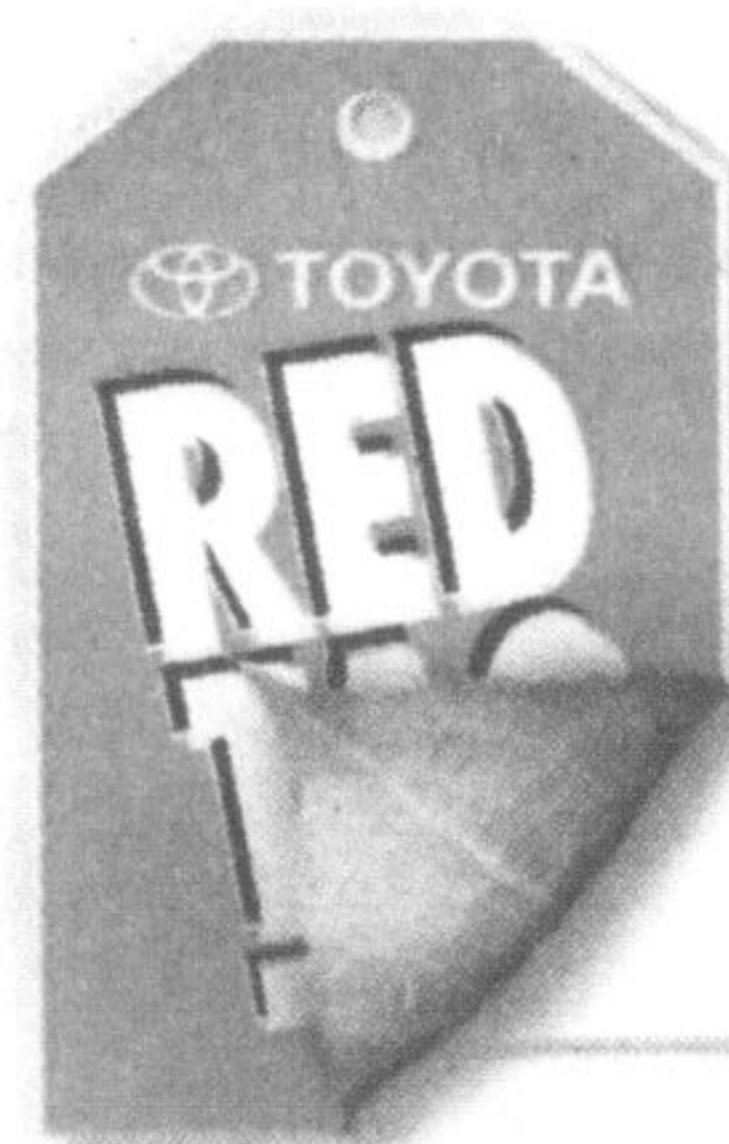
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