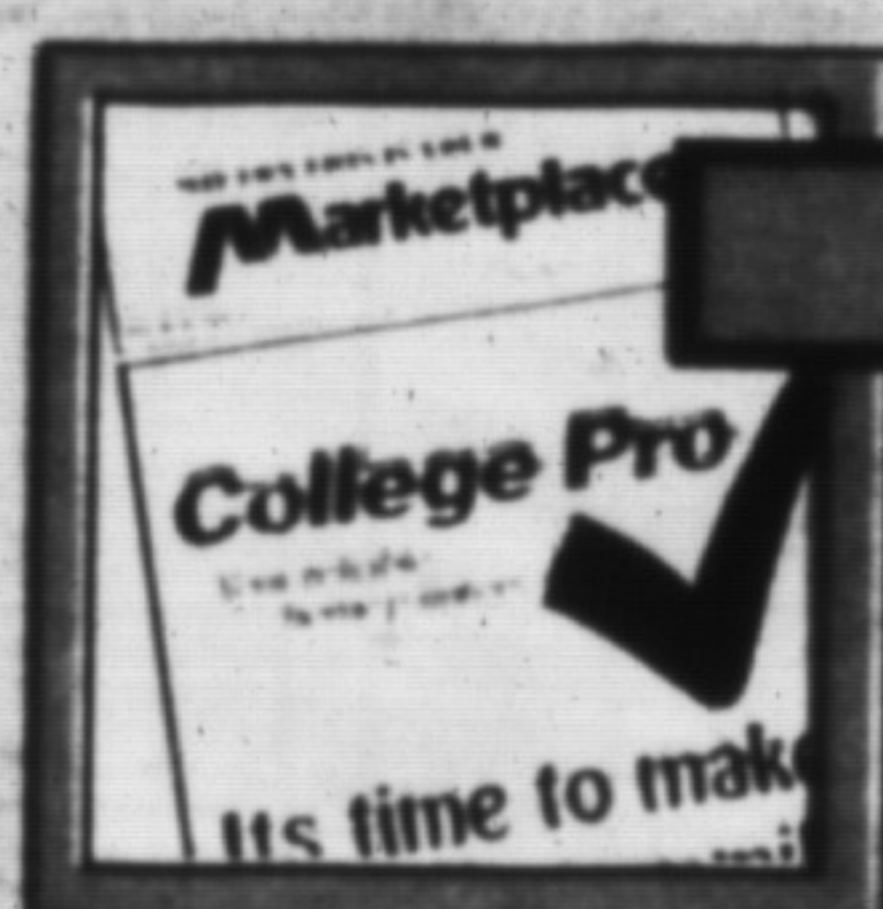


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UN dubs escarpment world natural reserve

By KAREN SMITH

The Niagara Escarpment has received world-wide recognition with a United Nations designation which named the 450 million year old formation a biosphere reserve.

The declaration became official Wednesday at the Ontario Agricultural Museum, with an inauguration ceremony attended by Ontario Premier David Peterson and an official from the the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Mr. Peterson, who faced a group of environmental protestors at the event, said the move recognizes the unique natural features and ecological importance of the area.

"I am very grateful to UNESCO," he told the crowd of about 200 people. "This is international recognition of the foresight of so many of our predecessors."

Local environmental groups Keep The Escarpment Environment Protected (KEEP) and Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) support the designation.

"I think it's wonderful," said Gwen Isings of KEEP, "and it will help make decisions by the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the (government) ministries more favourable."

UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor, who arrived at the museum with the Premier via OPP helicopter, called the designation a "great accomplishment."

He and the Premier had just completed a bird's eye tour of the escarpment. "He was so impressed, he thought he might want a house on the top of it," quipped Mr. Peterson.

The Premier praised the efforts of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, which adopted the Niagara Escarpment Plan in 1985.

The plan calls for the escarpment to be maintained "substantially as a natural environment, and pursues a balance between conservation, protection and sustainable development."

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said the designation gives the escarpment a "better chance at surviving" and is one step closer to curtailing exploitation of the natural feature.

The Niagara Escarpment was formed along the shore of a shallow tropical sea that covered much of Ontario and Michigan. It was sculpted into its present form by glaciers, ancient rivers and lakes.

Logging protestors confront Peterson

By KAREN SMITH

"For every tree you lose a vote," chanted 20 protestors awaiting Ontario Premier David Peterson's arrival at the Ontario Agricultural Museum Wednesday.

Waving placards, the boisterous but peaceful demonstrators sent the Premier a clear message regarding their environmental concerns.

Taking advantage of his visit, a small group representing the

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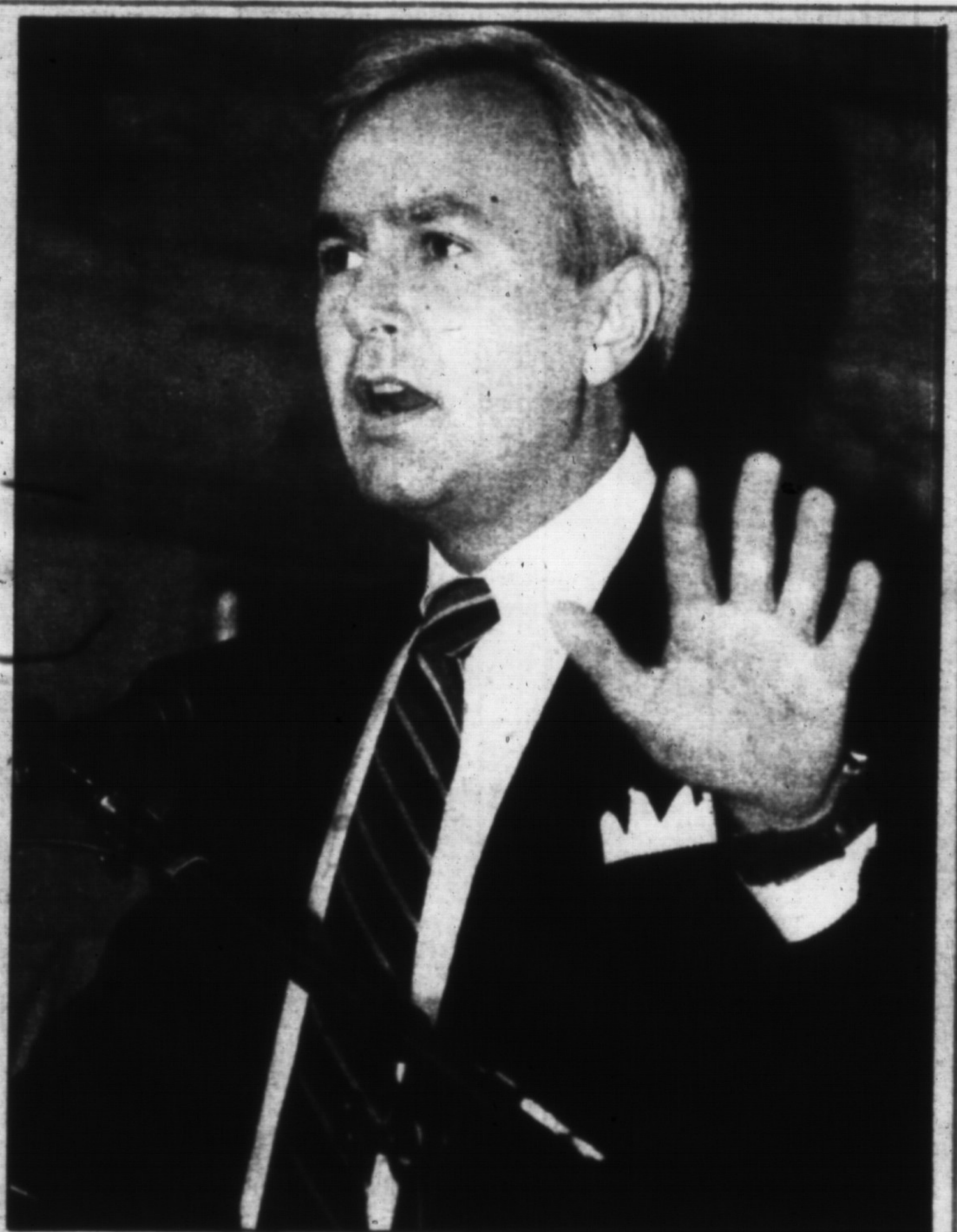


Photo by JON BLACKER

Peterson makes a point

Premier David Peterson was at the Ontario Agricultural Museum in Milton to speak at a ceremony recognizing the Niagara Escarpment as a world natural reserve. A small group of protestors greeted the Premier, but by and large response to the the United Nations designation was enthusiastic. See story at left.

Blood drive Tuesday

Bishop Reding Roman Catholic Secondary School will host its first blood donor clinic Tuesday.

With a goal of 100 donations, the clinic will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school, 1600 Main St. E.

Everyone aged 17 years and older is invited to donate.

Students and staff of Bishop Reding are hoping the clinic will become an annual event with the Canadian Red Cross Society.



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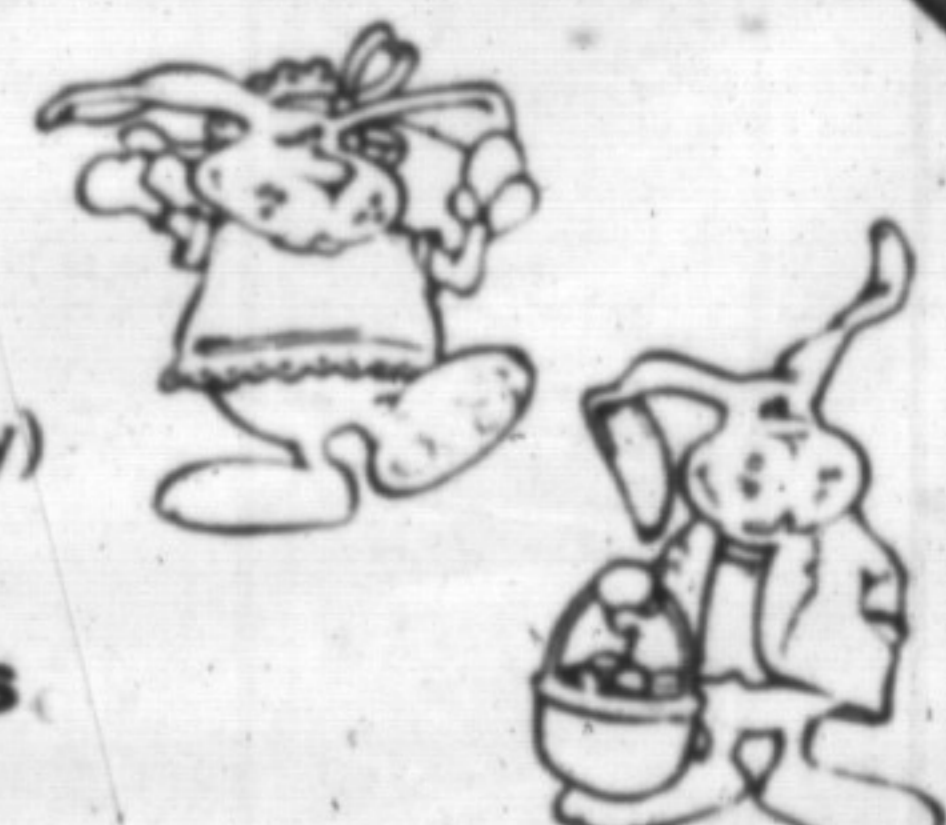
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