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Louis Nadalin dies from leukemia

By ROB KELLY

One of Milton's most controversial citizens has died after a 12-year struggle against leukemia. Louis Nadalin, 54, a master of the grand gesture — to some a dreamer, to others a manipulator — succumbed Monday in a Hamilton hospital.

The troubled wake of his life is divided into the two streams that coursed through his days. A Campbellville woman who knew Mr. Nadalin since his teenage days praised his bracing self-confidence and sense of adventure.

His brother Henry, fiercely protective now that the legal wrangles, convictions and blaring headlines have been put to rest with the ultimate finality, steadfastly maintained that Louis Nadalin "was painted with a heavy brush" in the media.

A man of the cloth called him "as good a Christian friend as I've ever had" and recounted how Mr. Nadalin, in his twilight following, numerous prosecutions, once said, "God help me live long enough to forgive everyone who has taken a run at me."

Mayor Gord Krantz, who as much as anyone represents the curious mixture of sadness and anger surrounding the late Mr. Nadalin, said, "he had the potential for being a good (community) leader. He did contribute greatly in his early days. There was no real need for what happened. Greed just might get the best of us at times."

The late Mr. Nadalin and his brother Henry built a successful electrical contracting venture but Louis branched

out into other businesses. It was these other activities that led to his downfall.

Eventually, Mr. Nadalin was convicted as mastermind of a \$7.5 million fraud conspiracy following a string of successful prosecutions evolving out of the affair. The courts said 500 investors from across Canada were victimized — duped into pouring cash into vending machine businesses.



Louis Nadalin

In July of 1984 Mr. Nadalin was sentenced to four years in penitentiary for the initial vending machine fraud, said to have bilked investors of \$7.1 million.

In January, 1985, Mr. Nadalin saw two years added to the sentence after a jury in St. Catharines found him guilty of conspiracy to defraud the Royal Bank of Canada of \$370,000.

In November, 1986 he was fined \$100,000 for tax evasion related to income from the vending machine businesses in 1980. A year was tacked on his sentence after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud his own companies.

Mr. Nadalin spent only a year in jail prior to being paroled.

In 1980, when Gord Krantz successfully challenged incumbent Don Gordon for the mayor's chair, one of Mr. Krantz's campaign platforms was his push to bring new industry to the community.

He lobbied strongly to have an American firm sink roots in the town — an ambitious plan largely created by Mr. Nadalin. The move was to bring 1,000 jobs to Milton.

see NADALIN on page 9



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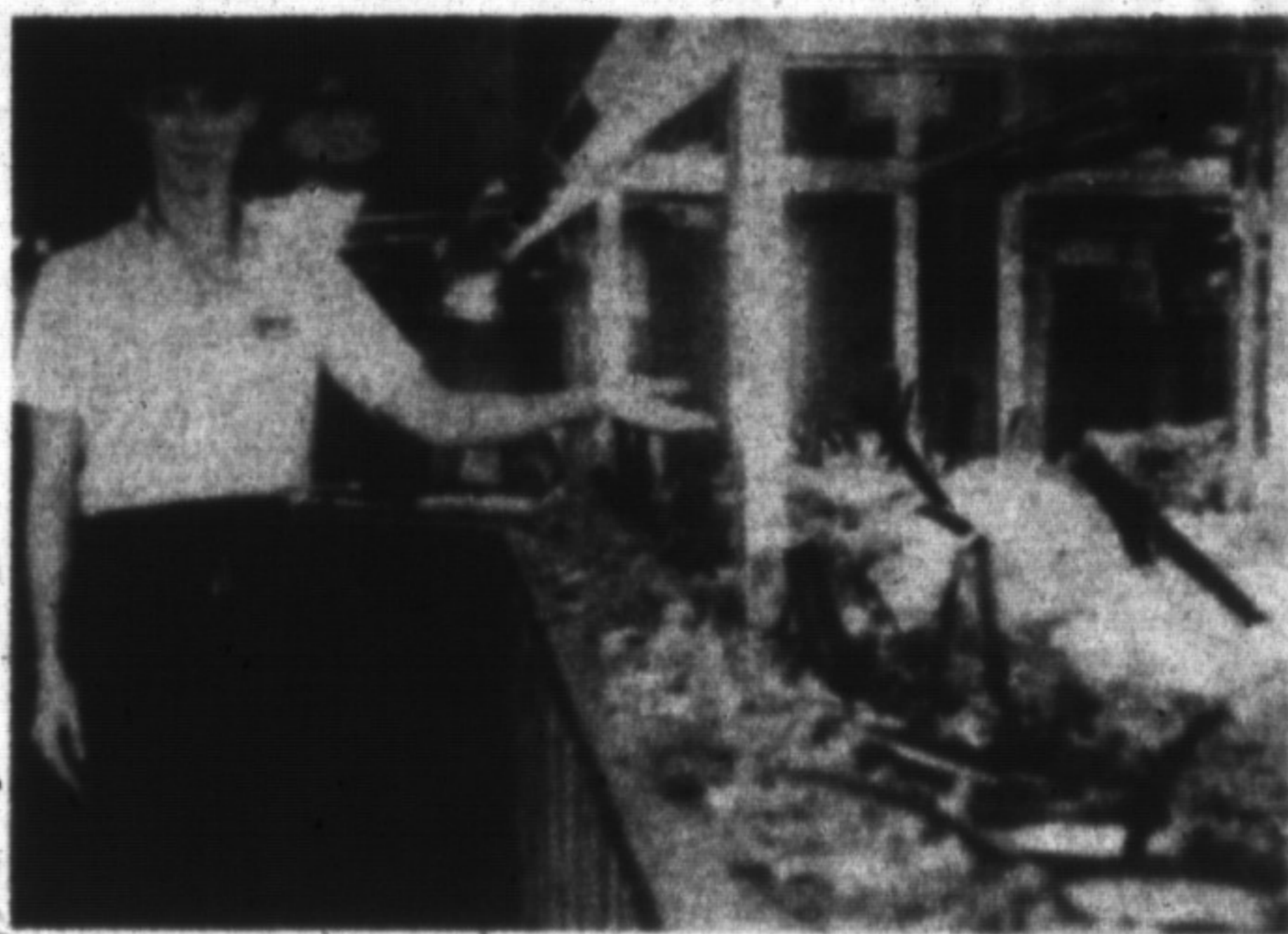
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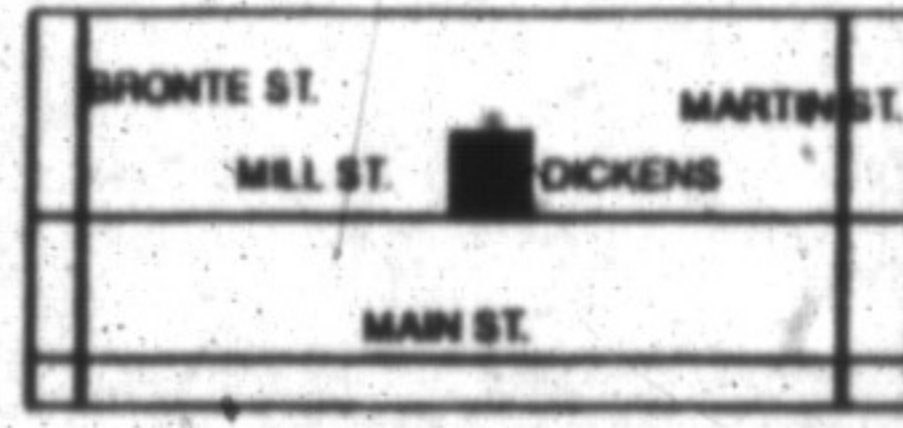
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