

Stewart passes Society leadership torch to Haas

By KAREN SMITH

The out-going president of the Milton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society will be a tough act to follow.

But John Stewart, 69, is confident the organization is in good hands with Dick Haas, who took over the job Tuesday.

After more than 11 years as president, Mr. Stewart has stepped down from the position because it's time to let someone else take the reins, he said.

Mr. Stewart, a retired police chief, first volunteered with the Milton branch in 1978, and then moved up to the top executive position six months later.

Fund-raiser

As well as overseeing the entire operation in Milton, he has put great time and effort into raising thousands of dollars to find a cure for cancer.

He has also helped organize programs to assist people in dealing with the dreaded disease — suffered

by one in three Canadians.

Highlights of Mr. Stewart's tenure included meeting Terry Fox and seeing year the opening of the Canadian Cancer Society's first office in Milton last year.

"It hasn't been a difficult job at all," he said in an interview Wednesday. "I have had excellent volunteers and it's been a great privilege to work with them. I'm quite sure my successor will find the same thing."

Mr. Haas, an experienced fund-raiser, is new to the Canadian Cancer Society as well as the presidency. He decided the job suited him after hearing about it from Mr. Stewart — an acquaintance.

"I feel strongly that you have a social responsibility at some point," said Mr. Haas.

A Milton resident for the last four years, Mr. Haas, 47, believes his communication, organizational and people skills will help him in his new role.

"Attitude and motivation will get

you everywhere," he said.

A management consultant, Mr. Haas grew up in Holland and lived in Japan for a few years before moving to Caledon and then Milton.

"I think Milton is the best kept secret in the Golden Horseshoe area," he said.

His first priority as president, he said, is to recruit more desperately needed volunteers. There are currently 12, but that is not enough to fill all the vacancies.

\$105,000

The new volunteers will be well trained and fundraising efforts will change straight ahead. During the past year, the Milton branch of the Society raised \$303,000 through donations and memorials.

But unfortunately, said Mr. Stewart, many people don't make an effort to donate to the Cancer Society until a close friend or relative is plagued with the disease.

Overall, residents of Milton are generous with donations, he added, but he would like to see more support from businesses.

"All the businesses in Milton should evaluate their reasons for giving to the Canadian Cancer

Society and make room in their budgets," he said.

Thanks to research, major improvements have been made in many types of cancer treatments. And statistics over the past 15 years have changed dramatically for the better.

Initially, the purpose of the Society was to educate the public about cancer. Doctors were concerned that patients with cancer waited too long before seeking medical attention.

Now the organization's mandate has grown to include patient services

and research support. Today, the Society has more answers than ever about cancer.

Volunteers provide films, displays, brochures and guest speakers to schools, hospitals, companies and community groups.

In addition, both public and workplace education programs teach the importance of prevention, early detection and treatment.

To contact the Milton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, call 878-5228.



John Stewart



Dick Haas

See autumn from the escarpment

Autumn has arrived on the Niagara Escarpment and Crawford Lake is celebrating.

The conservation area invites area residents to attend the Autumn on the Escarpment Festival held Thanksgiving weekend, October 6 to 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The fall colours will be at their peak and visitors can enjoy them by taking a wagon ride to the Nassagaweya Canyon lookout.

Kids of all ages are invited to make country crafts and participate in a scavenger hunt. Hot apple cider and pies will be available and live folk music will entertain guests.

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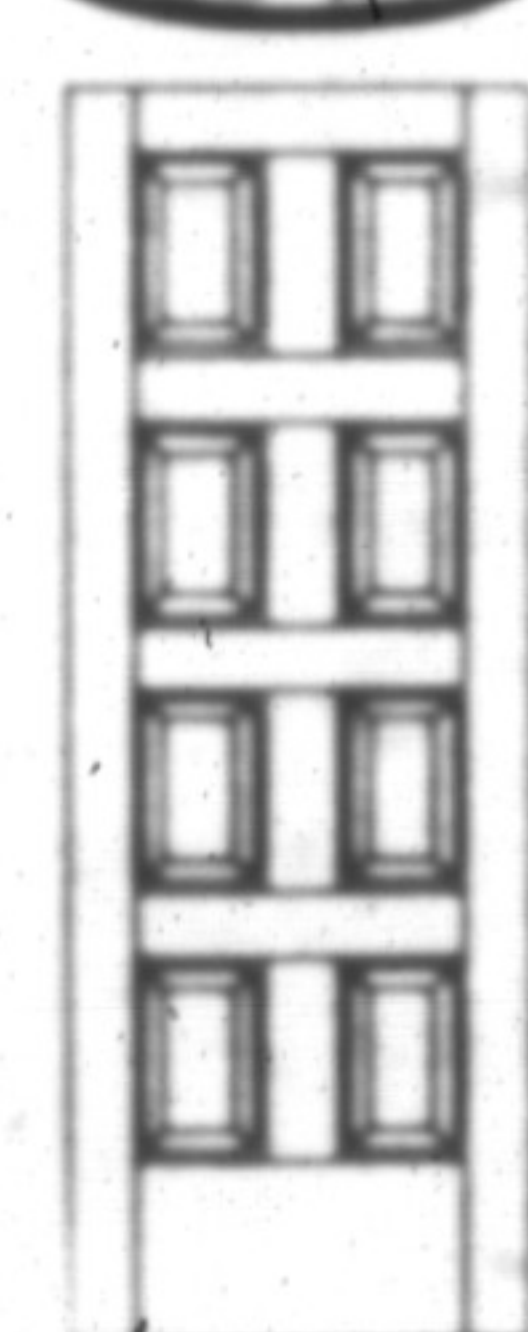
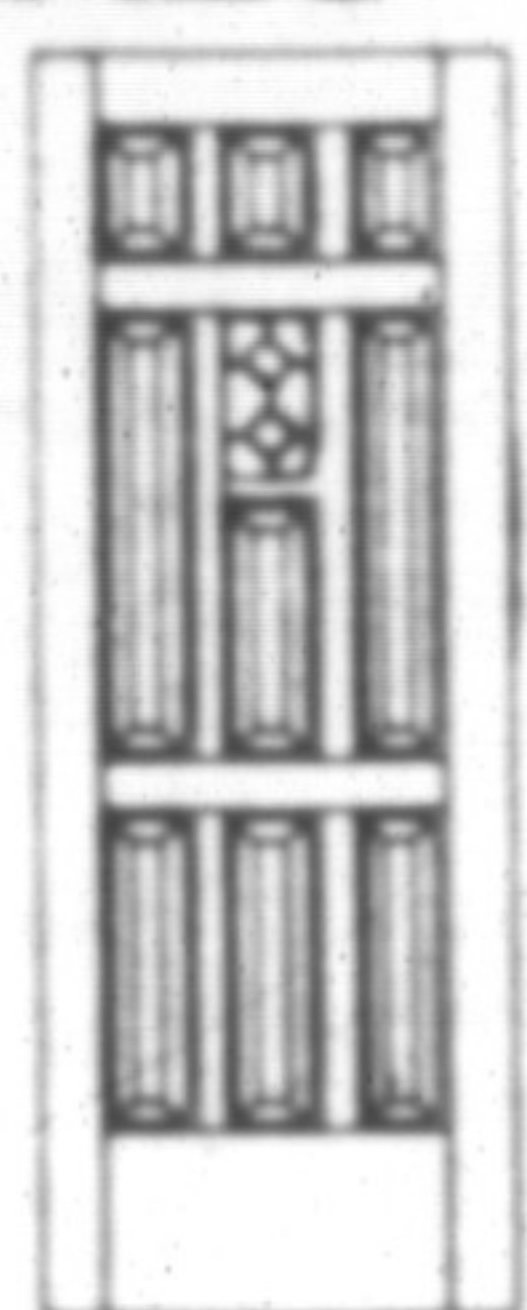
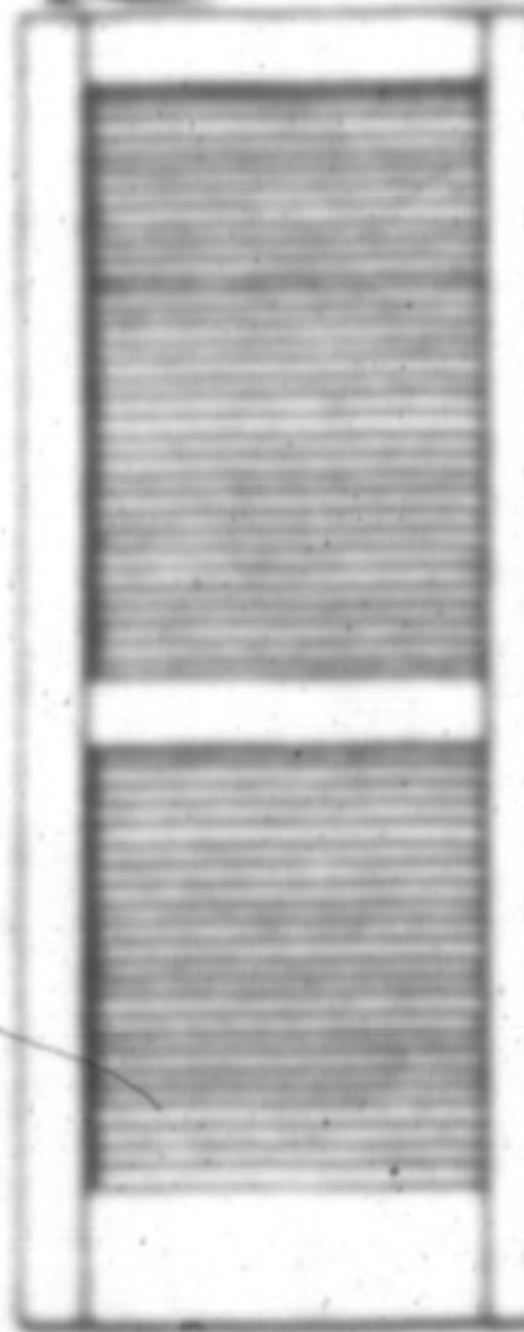
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