

Winners to be announced

Civic award finalists invited to gala event

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

The winners of this year's Milton Chamber of Commerce civic awards will be announced for the first time at a gala black tie affair in early April.

The facelift from the past semi-formal awards presentations has been planned to "raise the image of the awards themselves," said new Chamber general manager Sandy Martin.

The change will also draw more attention to the nominees, she said. In previous years, the award winners were announced before the banquet, and no other nominees were recognized.

"The people who are nominated are just as worthy as the winners," added Ms. Martin. "They're all winners."

The Chamber has narrowed nominations down to three finalists for Citizen of the Year, Civic Organization of the Year, and Civic Improvement of the Year awards.

Barbara Snow, Walt Elliot and Joe McCann are up for Milton's top citizen, while the Milton Horticultural Society, Keep the Escarpment Environment Protected (KEEP) and the Milton Jaycees are the successful nominees for organization of the year.

The Evergreen Cemetery, Ontario Tree Fruits, and Chris Varelas, owner of 136 Main St., are the three finalists for the civic improvement award.

Ms. Snow was nominated largely for the numerous fundraising events she's held at her Pineland Farm home for more than 25 years, most recently Las Vegas night. She's also active in her church.

A former Halton North Liberal MPP, Mr. Elliot has served the community by volunteering his time with several organizations. He's currently president of the Milton Historical Society, vice-chairman of Halton Recovery House, executive vice-president of the Children's and Youth Foundation of Halton, and campaign chairman of the United Way of Milton.

For his long-time role in

Whistle ban on track in village

Campbellville residents opposed to train whistling in their rural village were pleased Monday night when town councillors reaffirmed support for them, but it's still a matter of if, not when, the whistles will be silenced.

Bob Pelland, a CP Rail community relations manager who attended the meeting, said he could "see problems" with implementing a no-whistle policy.

The federal government, through Transport Canada, must agree to the measure, and they've already turned it down once in 1984, Mr. Pelland pointed out. He added that since then the curvature of the track, which was originally cited as a safety objection by Transport Canada, hasn't changed.

Railway authorities worry that when sight is limited due to track curves, trains must blow their whistles to warn of their approach.

But Dr. David Rosenbloom, a spokesman for Stop Whistling Into Campbellville Homes (SWITCH), said he was "delighted" with the turn of events.

"There's no guarantee we'll get whistling stopped at all the crossings, and there's no way we would want an unsafe procedure put in place," Dr. Rosenbloom said. "But we expect they will give it an appropriate review. The process appears to have begun."

That there is now some momentum behind the effort to curb whistling is a relief to Dr. Rosenbloom, who said Campbellville residents have been attempting "on and off" to muffle the trains since 1984.

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NEWSLINES

Smokers go weedless

Teenagers and especially teenage girls are one of the target groups for this year's National Nonsmoking Week campaign.

Today is Weedless Wednesday across Canada, a day when all smokers are encouraged to kick the habit for at least one day.

A poster contest is running this week in the region's school involving Grade 5 students. The Halton Council on Smoking and Health sponsored contest requires the youths to create posters that depict "things to do instead of smoking". The Halton winner receives a camera for his or her classroom.

Also, babies born this week will be recruited as part of the "smoke-free generation". They'll be given a special card from the council stating "Picture you, picture me, in a world that is smoke-free."

The focus of the council this week and into the future is to address the issue of the availability of cigarettes to teenagers.

INSIDE



The Spartan Junior Open produced some good wrestling at Drury on Saturday.

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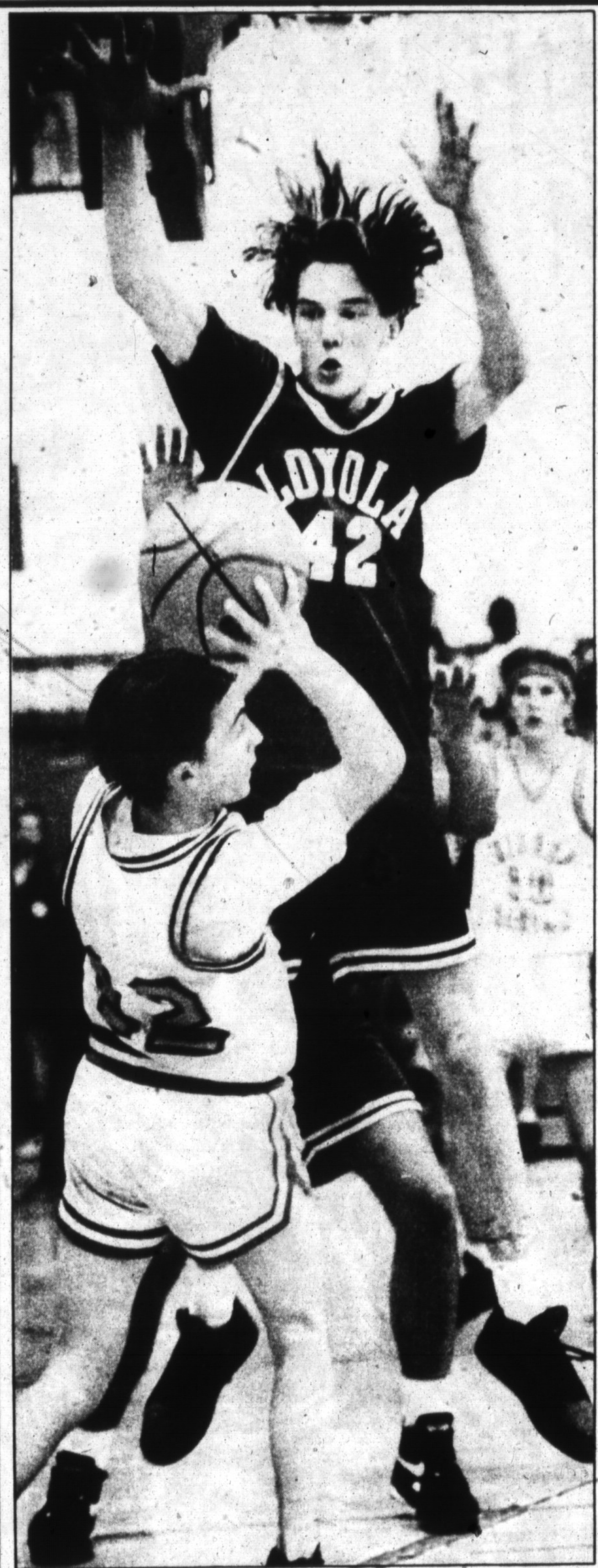


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Air block

Loyola got the jump on Bishop Reding junior boys winning 50-46 in recent action. Reding Royals Doug Enright is overshadowed by Loyola's John Diner as he attempts to pass the ball.