

Milton man's company wins a national business award

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

Winning a national business award was like receiving an Oscar for Milton native Grant Bibby, founder of Orchid Automation Group Inc.

The McMaster University engineering graduate didn't expect such an honour would be in store in 1988 when he formed his Cambridge-based company, which has become a leader in quick die change technology.

"I didn't really think it was going to be this big," admits Mr. Bibby, 30.

The personable businessman has proven to be among the stars in the corporate picture, manufacturing

products for high rollers including Chrysler Corp. and General Electric Co.

His efforts, as well as those of his partners — five senior managers — recently earned Orchid a Canada Award for Business Excellence among five finalists in the small business category.



Grant Bibby

Approximately 2,000 people attended a Nov. 30 gala at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, where the presentation was made.

The experience of winning the Globe and Mail sponsored award was "overwhelming," says Mr. Bibby, who lives in rural Milton with his wife Amary and two daughters, 10 and 6.

He credits the company's success

to a lot of hard work by qualified people. Orchid, which makes large automation equipment for just-in-time metal stamping, employs a modest staff of about 45 — 18 of whom hold engineering degrees.

"Everybody has worked so hard," he says. "It's nice to be recognized."

The company's claim to fame is heavy-duty die carriers put together with structural steel and sophisti-

cated electronic controls that can pull off a die switch in as little as six minutes.

The concept, which saves Orchid's clients time and money, was the brainchild of Mr. Bibby.

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Chamber announces its award nominees

The Milton Chamber of Commerce has announced the nominees for 1993 Civic and Business of the Year Awards. The nominees are:

Citizen of the Year — Betty Zelinsky (Salvation Army), Dorrie Greig (LACAC) and Audrea Lear-Costigan (Arthritis Society).

Business Person of the Year — Lesley Goertzen (Green Ginger), Jeff Decosemo (Kelsey's Restaurant), Laird Smith (Thorburn Penny Consultants).

Business of the Year — Ad-Scope Marketing, Home Hardware, Kelsey's Restaurant.

Civic Organization of the Year — Milton Choristers, Milton Horticultural Society, Milton District High School students and Mr. Currie.

Civic Improvement of the Year — Greystone Golf Club, Halton Hills Place, RCMP building.

"The Chamber special events committee recognizes each and every nominee for their contribution to the community," said the organization's general manager, Sandy Martin.

However, one award recipient from each category will be announced during a gala awards night at Halton Hills Place Saturday, March 26. The evening will include dining and dancing to the Harry Waller Orchestra.

Tickets are available at the Chamber office or by calling 878-0581 to make your reservation.

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