

TD gives a hoot

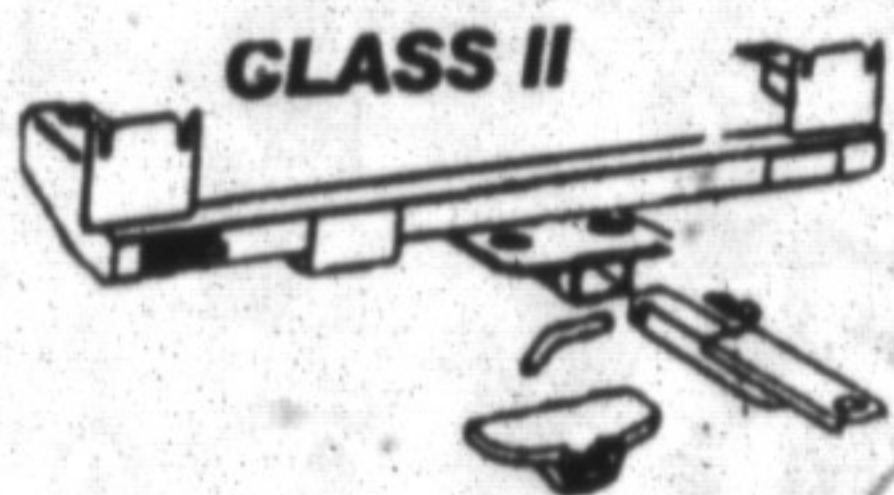
Jim Aikenhead (left), Chomper, a four year old great horned owl, and Jack Arno, the fiftyish chairman of the Halton Region Conservation Foundation, were pleased to accept a \$3,000 donation from Main Street Milton's Toronto Dominion Bank manager Kathy Rowntree. The money will be put toward the interpretive centre at Mountsberg Conservation Area, home of a permanent exhibit on birds of prey. Chomper and Mr. Aikenhead also spend a lot of time there. *Photo by Graham Paine*



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Trial hears

Stroke blamed for arson spree

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

A retired firefighter couldn't control his impulses when he torched vacant buildings in an arson rampage last year, a psychiatrist testified Tuesday.

Dr. Dixy Lee West told court that a stroke Richard Hayden suffered more than two years ago caused brain damage, affecting his judgment and "moral appreciation" of his crimes.

"When he gets it in his mind to do something, he just keeps persisting and persisting," the psychiatrist said in Ontario Court (provincial division) in Burlington. "I don't feel that he truly appreciates what he did."

Lawyer Fred Forsyth raised a defence that Mr. Hayden, charged with six counts of arson and three of break and enter, isn't criminally responsible for his actions due to mental illness.

Although the former City of York firefighter has pleaded not guilty to the charges, he hasn't contested evidence that he torched vacant buildings such as barns and churches in town between April 7 and 29,

1995, causing more than \$800,000 in damage.

Court has heard that the 57-year-old Churchill Avenue man admitted in a police interview that he set the structures afire with gasoline, and later returned to the scenes to watch firefighters battle the flames because he missed his old job.

Dr. West, who has seen Mr. Hayden five days a week since he was admitted to Brockville Psychiatric Hospital in November last year, told the court Mr. Hayden's acts of arson were out of character — another indication that his brain damage caused them.

However, as pointed out by assistant Crown attorney Amy Stevenson, the task for the court is to decide whether Mr. Hayden is responsible for his actions under guidelines set out in the Criminal Code of Canada.

The mental disorder defence provision under the code states that the individual in question must, at the time of the crime, have suffered from a disease of the mind that "rendered the person incapable of appreciating the nature and quality of the act or ... of knowing that it was wrong."

• see MAN NEEDS on page 15

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Running a new idea up the flag pole are left, Chris Laframboise and right, Dave Cropper Operations Manager at McDonald's. The flag is part of their campaign for their new Arch deluxe sandwich.

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