



**Lions president Ron Gauslin**

Ron Gauslin of Claremont recently received a prestigious 'Certificate of Appreciation' from the International Association of Lions Clubs. Association president Bert Mason made the presentation at an anniversary gathering in Dunville, Ont. —Chris Shanahan

**Claremont resident receives high honor**

CLAREMONT — A Claremont man has received a top international Lions Club award in recognition of 10 years service with that community organization.

Ron Gauslin, 33, of 5102 Wixon Street accepted the International President's 'Certificate of Appreciation' during the Dunville chapter's 60th anniversary banquet, May 30.

It was officially presented by Bert Mason of Ireland, president of the International Association of Lions Clubs. A crowd of about 450, including numerous Claremont residents, were in attendance.

The handsome certificate, signed by Mr. Mason, reads as follows: "For humanitarian services which exemplify the ideals of The International Association of Lions Clubs and the theme and objectives of this year.

"To express deep appreciation and the sincere thanks and commendation of our Association."

Mr. Gauslin, now entering his second year as president of the Claremont Lions, admits the honor came as a complete surprise.

"I was speechless, but managed to get a thank you out," he says, adding that he believes his recommendation for the award originated at the A-16 district level.

The Claremont service group will be co-operating in a major Lions project this October with clubs in Ajax-Pickering, Whitby and Oshawa. They'll stage a walk-a-dog-athon in Ajax to raise funds for a newly opened Oakville training facility for blind people in need of guide dogs.

Ron is employed as a vocational instructor at Arch Industries, Ajax.

**Exchange concept called 'premature'**

CLAREMONT — The rejuvenation of Claremont's downtown core has not progressed according to plan.

Development of the Claremont Exchange was to be a major step in this process, but the sales market never really caught on.

The building, located north-west of the hamlet's four corners, sat vacant for several months after operating less than a year.

The building is now home to Keith Nelson's carpentry shop.

Owner Peter Gillespie hoped the exchange concept would help trigger a new wave of business growth in the north Pickering hamlet.

But he admitted much of the anticipated public interest never materialized.

"I think it (the exchange) could have been a little premature for Claremont," the realtor said in an interview Monday.

The facility wasn't commercial-

ly viable for merchants because of the limited operating hours, he added. Several local vendors offered a wide variety of merchandise including hand-made clothing and baked goods.

The original Claremont Exchange sign remains on the building, but has been altered by unidentified vandals to read 'Claremont Sex-changes'.

Mr. Gillespie, who laughs at this play on words, said he'll remove the marker when he finds time.

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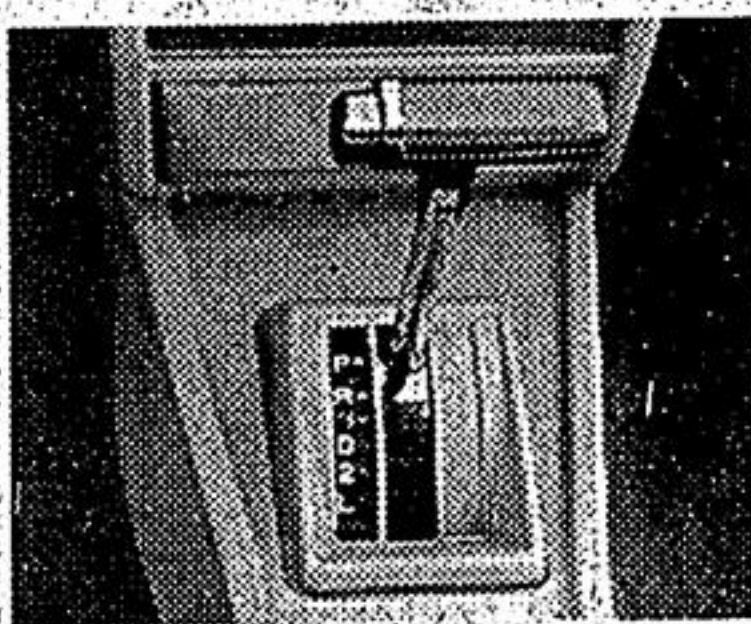
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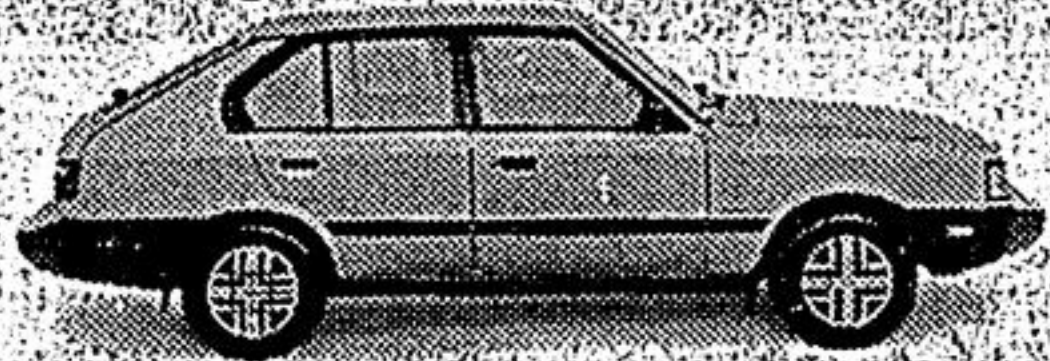
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