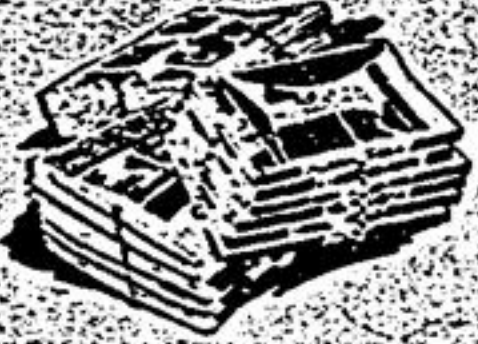




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HEALTH CARE

Local paramedic named tops in York Region

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

Selected by his peers for his professionalism and dedication, Ian McAdams has been named York Region's 1999 paramedic of the year.

The 39-year-old Whitby resident has worked for the Markham/Oshawa Ambulance service for more than 12 years.

His involvement in training programs, committee work, continuing medical education and tutoring all combined to prompt two nominations for McAdams from his colleagues region-wide.

"It's a bit of recognition for paramedics who don't get a lot of recognition otherwise," McAdams said.

"We are usually in and out of whatever situation very quickly and with the issues of patient confidentiality preventing us from talking to the media, it makes it difficult."

McAdams said the award is good for morale and will help generate interest in the paramedic service.

He said the award is important for morale and may help generate interest in professional issues, standards and on-going education.

"It's good for the profession as a whole, morale-wise and interest-wise,"

he said. "It's an award of excellence for things we can do to benefit our profession."

Merideth Morrison, program manager for the York Region Base Hospital Program, said McAdams scored points in every category.

"He is constantly achieving, always giving back," she said.

"He works mall displays, he educates students in high schools and public schools, he's very involved in promoting the profession, he trains a college student every year."

She said on that criteria, McAdams ended up with more points than any other nominee — and he was the only one nominated twice.

"We felt it was important, as one of many facets of the system, that we put forward these awards so our medics know we appreciate them," Morrison said.

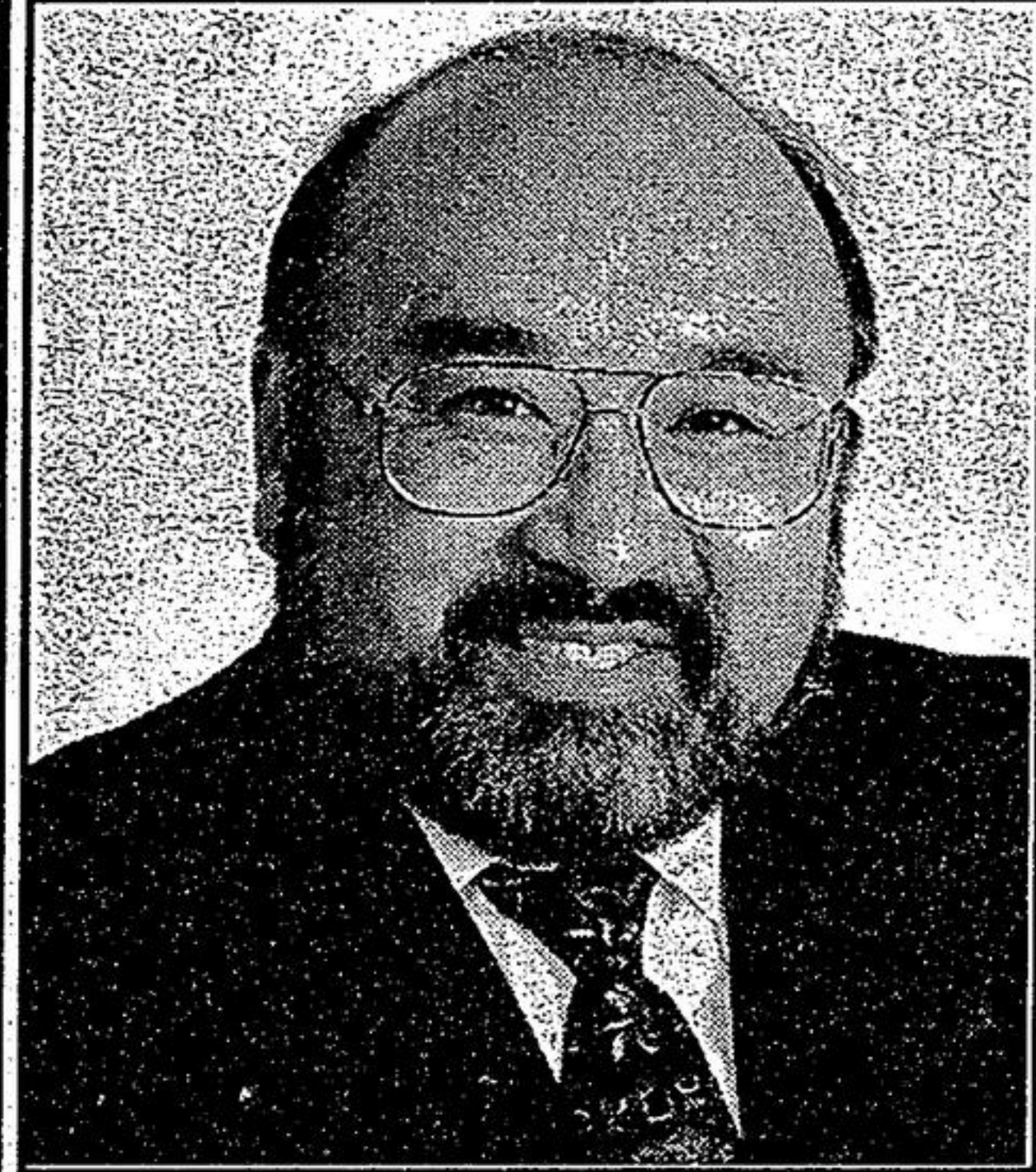
The plaque will go on McAdams' wall, and he said he'll use the \$500 prize towards a summer holiday.

"I'll use it for our family vacation," he said. "We're renting a cottage and it will go toward that."



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Ian McAdams, of the Markham/Oshawa Ambulance Service, shows off the York Region Paramedic of the Year Award. He was presented the plaque by Dr. Anne Clarke.



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