

WHAT'S up in Whitchurch-Stouffville

Until May 14

Annual Juried Exhibition. Over 40 artists from across Ontario. Latcham Gallery, 6240 Main St. See page 10 for details.

May 6

Sacred Music Night. With Middle Cross Quartet and Susan Brown. 8 p.m. St. James's Presbyterian Church. Proceeds to Parkview Home Building Fund.

May 12

Spring Fling Party. For seniors. Refreshments, stories, entertainment. 10 - 11:30 a.m. Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

Walk 'n Roll. Charity event for York-Durham Aphasia Centre and Parkview Home. See page 5 for details.

May 14

Free Family Day. Latcham Gallery, 6240 Main St. See page 10 for details.

Japanese Paper Workshop. Latcham Gallery, 6240 Main St. See page 10 for details.

Community Safety Village Open House. Hosted by York Region Police. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bruce's Mill Conservation Area. See page 2 for details.

May 18-28

Celebrations 2005. Display of elementary school artists. Latcham Gallery, 6240 Main St. See page 10 for details.

May 20

The EST's (Extra-Special Things) of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. Summer exhibit until Sept. 9, featuring unusual items in the collection. Also on this day, a move to summer hours, Wed. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, 14732 Woodbine Ave.

May 27-29

The Music Man. Musical presented by York Durham Academy for Performing Arts. Vaughan City Playhouse, call 905-640-0823, box 3 for info and tickets.

June 3-4

Fourth Annual Stouffville Elvii Fest. For info see ad on page 11, or call the BIA at 905-640-0749.

June 5

Bach to Blues Annual Spring Concert. With guest string quintet and vocalist Sara Mickler. 2 p.m. Christian Blind Mission International, 3884 Stouffville Rd. Proceeds to York-Durham Aphasia Centre. Rain locale St. James Presbyterian.

June 7

Meditation: Myth and Magic. Pay-what-you-can workshop. With Charlene Jones, M.A. 7:30 - 9 p.m. Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library. Pre-register by calling 905-642-7323.

Ongoing

Caring and enthusiastic volunteers needed for the York-Durham Aphasia Centre. We'll train you to work with people who've suddenly lost some of their communications skills. Please call Bonnie at 905-642-2053.

Volunteers needed for the Stouffville Recycling Depot. If the environment is a cause you care about, why not give a couple of hours? Call 905-640-8294.

Giving a future to those with disabilities

Chamber of Commerce recognizes director of Blind Mission International

Dave McComiskey had graduated with his commerce degree, and had begun a fairly successful career in marketing with a prominent Ontario corporation. But he wanted to make a more significant contribution to the world.

Two decades later, Dave is the Canadian executive director of Christian Blind Mission International (CBMI), and last month he was honoured by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce as its Corporate Citizen of the Year, an award which recognizes outstanding service and dedication to our worldwide community.

CBMI is a world wide organization founded in Germany in 1909 to assist the blind in developing countries. When the Canadian branch was founded in 1978, it located on Stouffville Road just east of Kennedy, across the road from the headquarters of one of its key partners, Emmanuel International. And that's where it's been ever since.

"Although our focus is still on helping the blind, we've found that our programs can assist those with many other kinds of conditions, from deafness to leprosy," says Dave. "We have projects in 114 countries around the globe, and CBMI Canada is directly involved right now in 76 projects in 31 countries. It's fascinating and important work."

The Stouffville Road office houses 23 staff, as well as conference facilities and a large talking book library and recording studio. For many years, Dave worked in the fund-raising area, and is now the man in charge.

"I think perhaps the reason the Chamber recognized CBMI at this time is that we were one of the first aid organizations on the ground running after the Dec. 26 tsunami in southern Asia. Within four hours of that disaster occurring, we were beginning relief with our local partners, and we're still working very hard over there."

"Most of our staff live right here in Whitchurch-Stouffville," Dave says, "and CBMI's relationship with the municipality has been an excellent one. In return, I think thanks in part to CBMI's work, this town has a great profile in the international development community."

Christian Blind Mission International currently has over 40,000 Canadian individuals and organizations contributing to its work around the world. If you'd be interested in joining that group, Dave and the staff would be pleased to hear from you. Drop by CBMI at 3844 Stouffville Road, or call for information at 905-640-6464.

Businesses feted by chamber

In addition to Dave McComiskey, its Corporate Citizen of the Year, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce recognized four other businesses and individuals at its annual awards banquet April 14.

Entrepreneur of the Year was Tom Clarkson of Clarkson Auctions, while Michael Deegan of the Stouffville Denture Clinic was named Young Entrepreneur, awarded to those under 30.

The Heritage Award was presented to the law firm Button, Armstrong and Ness, celebrating its 109th anniversary of service to our town.

And the grand prize, Business of the Year, went to Schickedanz Brothers, developers of distinctive homes in the Ballantrae area.

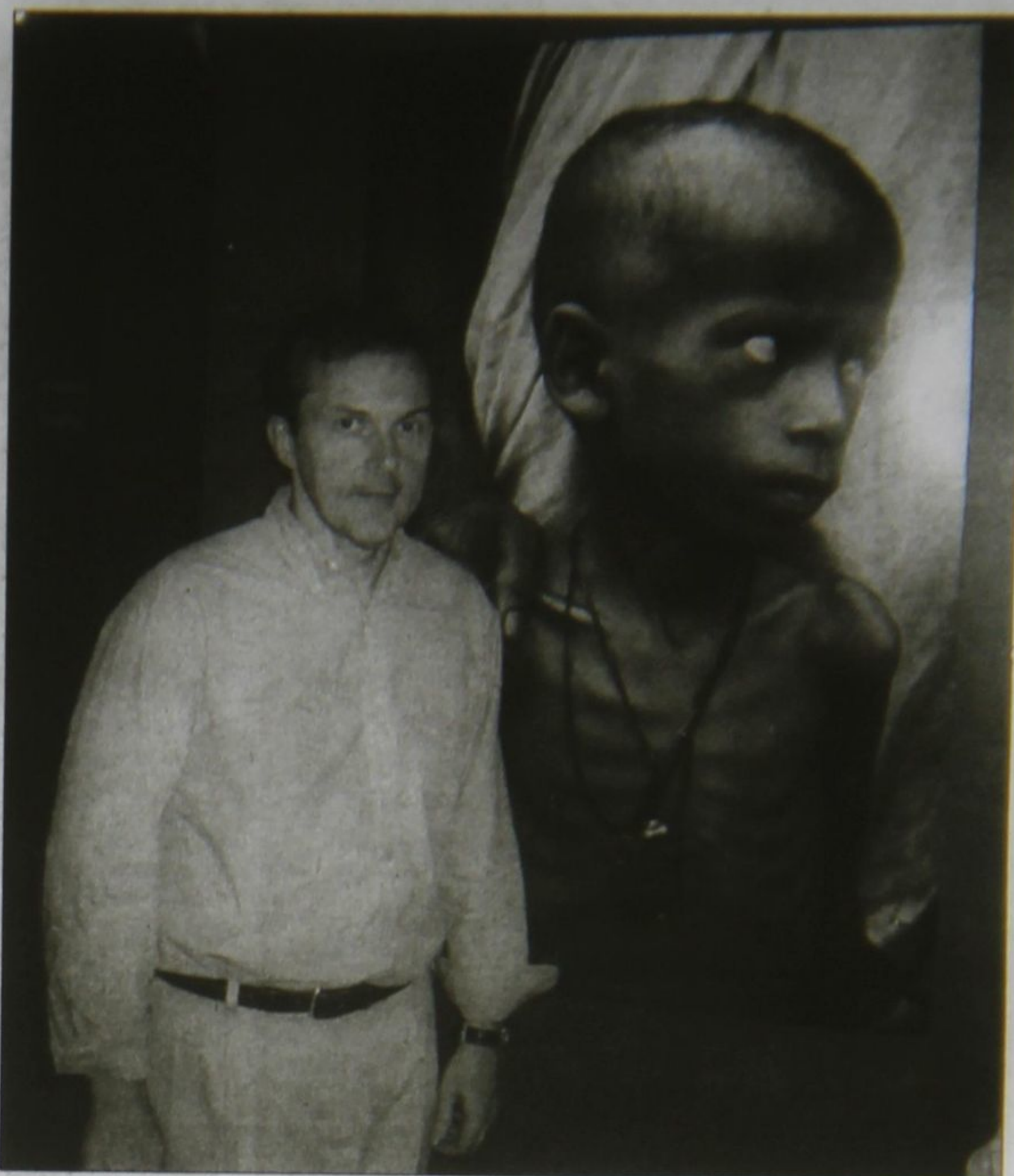
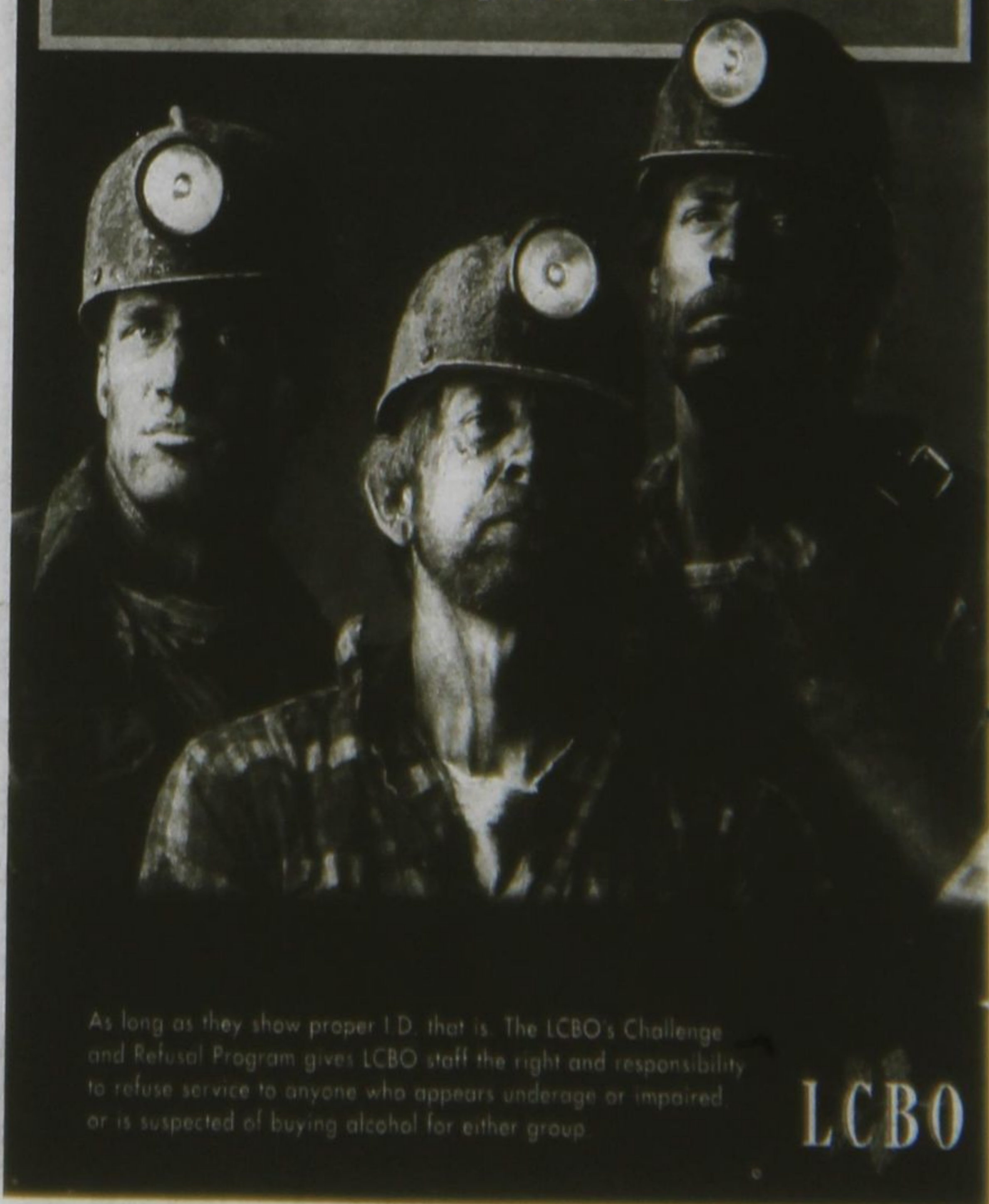


PHOTO BY CONRAD BOYCE

Business award winner Dave McComiskey is proud of the work of Christian Blind Mission International.

**THE ONLY MINERS
WE SERVE**



As long as they show proper I.D. that is. The LCBO's Challenge and Refusal Program gives LCBO staff the right and responsibility to refuse service to anyone who appears underage or impaired or is suspected of buying alcohol for either group.

LCBO

We want to publicize your upcoming event, whether you're a non-profit organization, church, service club or school. Just e-mail a short notice to our editor with all the nitty-gritty details at boycehome@interhop.net, or drop us a line at 34 Civic Avenue, Stouffville, L4A 7Z5. Our June issue will include events up to the first weekend in July, and the deadline for inclusion is Tuesday, May 24. Thanks!