

## Publisher shines on Silver

Ron Lenyk clearly remembers his first day his coat, ready to roll up his sleeves to help. — and his first story — as a reporter at The Mississauga News.

Assigned to assist a "senior" reporter on an investigation into an oil spill that had left dozens of ducks maimed or dead, he dutifully waded into the oil-slicked depths of Lake Ontario to retrieve a bird at the urging of his camera-toting colleague.

"My mom and dad had bought me a brand new camel coat," Lenyk recalls. "They were so proud of my new job."

Eager to please and secretly excited by the idea of having his photo published in the newspaper in his first week on the job, Lenyk plunged into his work, undaunted by thoughts of ruining

Lenyk's photo did appear in the next edition of The News — from the wrist down, clutching a dead duck. The "senior" reporter, who had been on the job a week longer than the rookie Lenyk, got the by-line.

The story is quintessential Lenyk, publisher of The News and vice-president of Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing.

After 25 years with The News, from his earliest days as a reporter through long nights away from home as a young editor to his post as publisher of one of the country's most successful community newspapers, he is still willing to roll up his sleeves and do the dirty work.

He seldom travels anywhere without his



camera and, as often as not, editions of The Mississauga News still carry stories penned, if not by-lined, by the publisher.

Under his leadership, The News has won an unprecedented 225 international, national and provincial awards for excellence, while Lenyk himself was recognized for his contributions to the community as a Junior Citizen of the Year. He has also been nominated for an Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship, the Vanier Award for Outstanding Young Canadian and as Citizen of the Year.

Lenyk's efforts have had an impact that extends far beyond the walls of The News, however. He has played a leading role in community affairs, lending his influence and experience to countless charitable organizations.

He has served on the executive of dozens of Mississauga boards of directors, including The Mississauga News Christmas Bureau Fund, Mississauga Sports Celebrities Dinner, Mississauga Clean City Campaign, the Journalism Advisory Board of Sheridan College, Credit Valley Hospital, Junior Achievement of Peel, Mayor's Gala and Community Living Mississauga Roast Committee, among others.

His contributions to Mississauga will be further recognized on March 29 at the Delta Meadowvale Inn when Community Living Mississauga hosts the Ron Lenyk Roast in his honor.

A father of two (Trina, 23, and Terry, 14), Lenyk and his wife, Olga, celebrated their own silver anniversary this year.