

Publisher joins half century club

Lenyk to blow out 50 candles April 5

Ron Lenyk clearly remembers his first day — 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, Lenyk 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 during his first week on the job, Lenyk plunged into his work, undaunted by thoughts of ruining his coat, ready to roll up his sleeves to help.

Lenyk's photo did appear in the next edition of *The News* — from the waist down, clutching a dead duck.

The "senior" reporter, who had been on the job a week longer than the rook-

ie Lenyk, got the by-line.

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

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.

Lenyk 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.

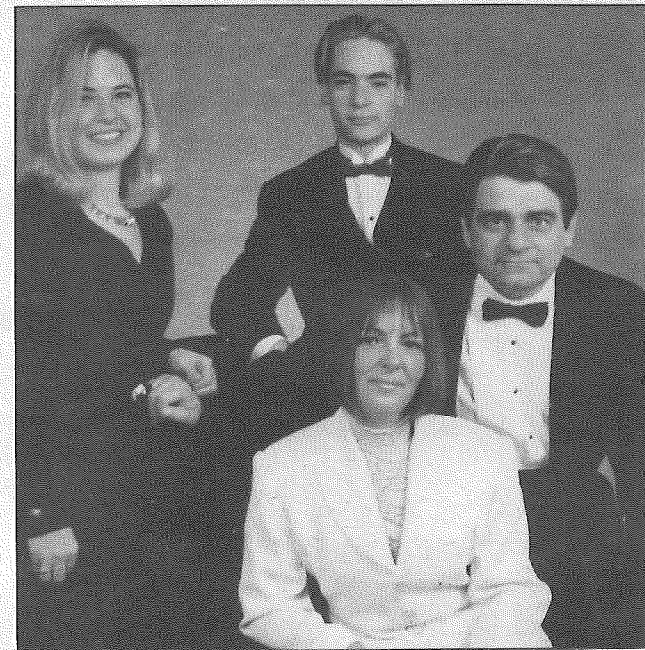
Under his leadership, *The News* has won an unprecedented 225 international, national and provincial awards for excellence, while Lenyk himself was recognized for his contribution to the community as a Junior Citizen of the Year.

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 lead 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 Celebrity 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.

A father of two (Trina 25, and Terry, 16), Lenyk and his wife, Olga, celebrated their own silver anniversary last year.



Above, Ron Lenyk, with wife Olga, daughter Trina and son Terry at a dinner to celebrate the Lenyks' 25th anniversary dinner last year.