

Our Mike-Canadian sportswriter of the year!

The Mississauga News' sports editor Mike Toth has been named the 1978 Newspaper Sportswriter of the Year by the Sports Federation of Canada.

Toth will receive the prestige award at a Saturday presentation at the Canadian National Exhibition Sports Hall of Fame.

In taking this year's honor, 39-year-old Toth joins a long list of respected sports writers. Past winners include Jim Coleman of the Toronto Telegram, Andy O'Brien of Weekend Magazine and the Toronto Sun's George Gross.

Toth has been The Mississauga News' sports editor since 1974, when he left the Mississauga Times after three years as that paper's sports editor.

Before working in Mississauga he spent two years as a publicity director with the Toronto City Soccer Club, promoting international soccer games at CNE and Varsity Stadium.

From 1967 to 1969 Toth edited two publications, North American Soccer News and Telesport.

For seven years prior to that he worked as a sports reporter for the Vancouver Times and a freelance writer for the Vancouver Province as well as Canadian Press and a number of Hungarian language

publications in Canada and around the world.

Toth arrived in Canada in 1957 from his native Hungary, after "hopping over the Iron Curtain in a most athletic fashion. My trousers got caught."

Each year the Sports Federation of Canada, which represents all major sports governing bodies in Canada, selects its sportswriter of the year, naming the writer who has, in the federation's view, done more than "merely what is necessary to help amateur sport in Canada".

Candidates for the award are nominated by the federation's member associations.

Rob McCormick, The Mississauga News' city editor, has won the Mississauga Fire Department's award for Best Story of 1978.

He won the award for a feature article on firefighters in the May 24 edition, based on a series of interviews and several days spent "just hanging around" some of the Mississauga stations.

McCormick, 26, joined The Mississauga News in April, 1975, after three years in the journalism program at Centennial College.

He was the paper's police and court reporter until July of last year, when he became city editor.

His award will be presented at the third annual Mississauga Firefighters' Association Ball Feb. 16, at the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre.