

Peel Bldg. BK.

# Wood home with medal

Aug. 4-16 MT

By PAUL WILLIAMS

To cries of "We want Silverwood," members of the Mississauga Canoe Club welcomed Mississauga's first Olympic medal winner home late Monday night.

John Wood placed second, narrowly missing a gold in the Canadian singles 500 metres at the Olympic Basin. Wood was also the only male athlete picked to represent the Canadian Olympic team during the official march-in that was part of the closing ceremonies of the Montreal Olympics Sunday.

A small but enthusiastic crowd of 75 well-wishers greeted the happy Olympic paddler at Toronto International Airport at 11 p.m. Monday.

Wood did not have reservations for his return flight Monday which presented problems for the Mississauga paddlers waiting to welcome him home.

He was expected home anytime after noon Monday. A number of young paddlers complete with their boats (on trailers behind trucks) were waiting at Square One at noon to accompany Wood down Hurontario Street to the Mississauga Canoe Club.

Wood was carrying his silver medal in his gym bag when he got off his flight from Montreal. However he was quickly persuaded to show it which he did by swinging it over his head.

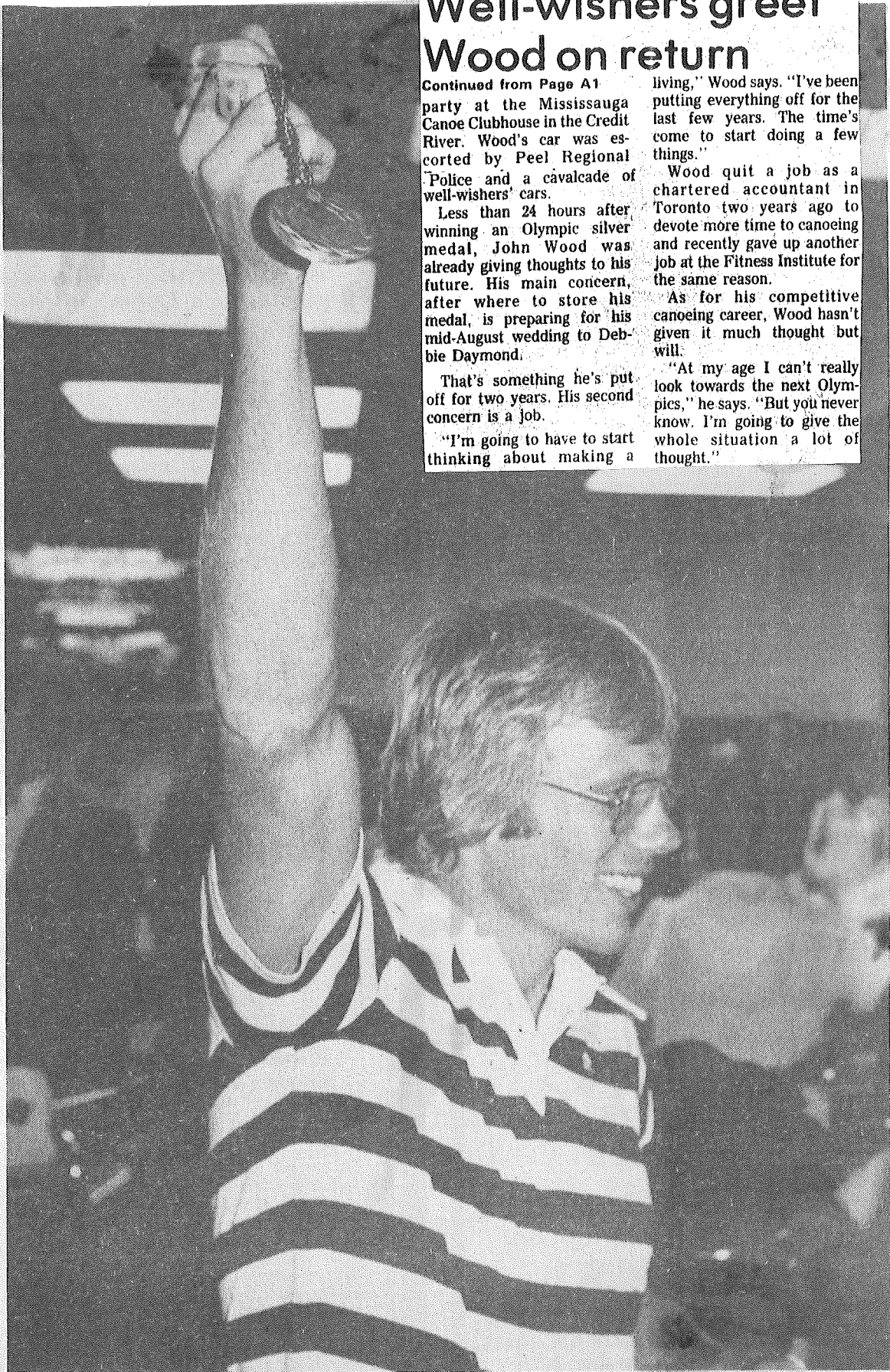
Wearing the silver medal and clutching his paddle Wood was showered by streamers by his enthusiastic supporters.

He was quickly assaulted by numerous questions and was told by one little girl that he was going to win a gold at Moscow in 1980.

Wood fielded the questions and congratulations like a pro but when called on to make a speech, laughingly declined.

Still wearing his medal and holding his paddle, Wood entered an open top sports car to be driven to his welcoming

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## Well-wishers greet Wood on return

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party at the Mississauga Canoe Clubhouse in the Credit River. Wood's car was escorted by Peel Regional Police and a cavalcade of well-wishers' cars.

Less than 24 hours after winning an Olympic silver medal, John Wood was already giving thoughts to his future. His main concern, after where to store his medal, is preparing for his mid-August wedding to Debbie Daymond.

That's something he's put off for two years. His second concern is a job.

"I'm going to have to start thinking about making a

living," Wood says. "I've been putting everything off for the last few years. The time's come to start doing a few things."

Wood quit a job as a chartered accountant in Toronto two years ago to devote more time to canoeing and recently gave up another job at the Fitness Institute for the same reason.

As for his competitive canoeing career, Wood hasn't given it much thought but will.

"At my age I can't really look towards the next Olympics," he says. "But you never know. I'm going to give the whole situation a lot of thought."

Times photo by GORM LARSEN

Olympic silver medalist, John Wood, holds his trophy high on his return last night from Montreal. He was greeted at the airport by a small but enthusiastic crowd of well-wishers, many from the Mississauga Canoe Club.

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**Sports history . . . Mississauga's John Wood (left) came face-to-face with the living legend of Canadian canoeing, following his silver medal at the Montreal Olympics. On hand to congratulate Wood were three other former canoe competitors, who were, in their own era, also responsible for silver medals. In this exclusive photo, they posed for The Mississauga News. From left, Wood, Ken Lane (1952 medalist), Doug Bennett (1948) and Harvey Charters (1936). (Staff photos by Mike Totb)**