

# Efforts to stay low-key are thwarted as Don Gilchrist gets a major award

By Margaret Leyland

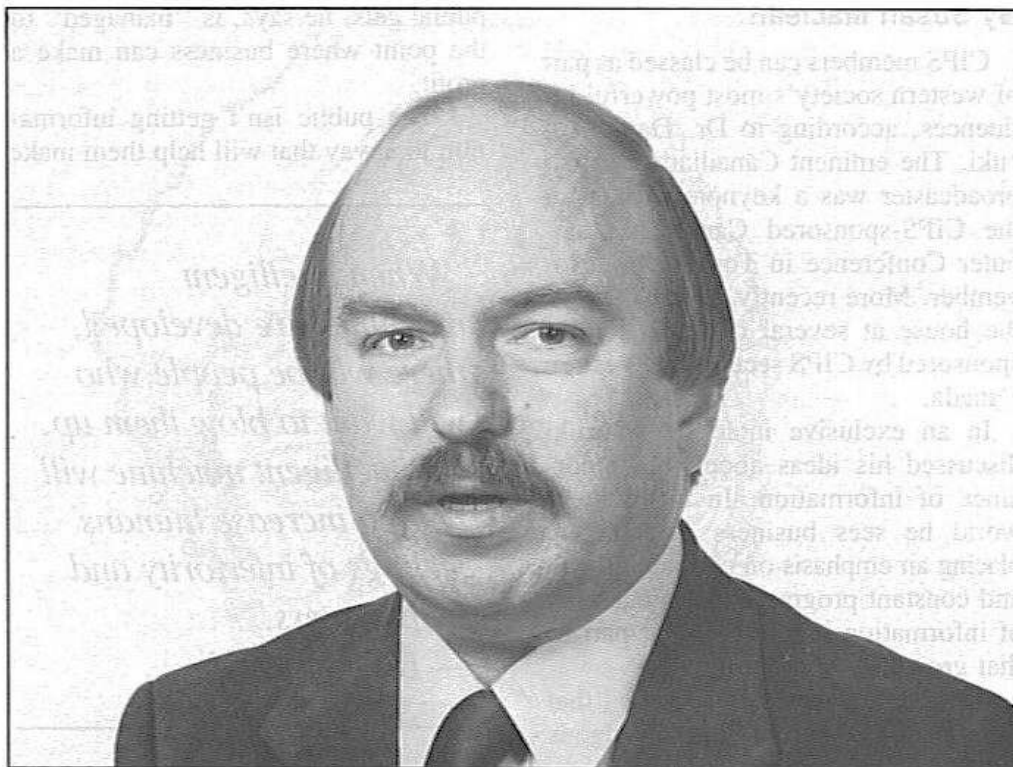
Do you know that McMaster University in Hamilton is the site of the first HP3000 system in Canada?

Did you know that Hamilton is the home of the first Canadian recipient of the Hewlett-Packard User's Group, Hall of Fame Award?

Don Gilchrist, a CIPS Hamilton member since 1977, has been actively involved in the HP User's Group for five years. (The HP User's Group is independent of the vendor.) He was recently honored at the Anaheim Conference with the Hall of Fame award for his outstanding contribution to the group. Gilchrist believes he was recognized for his efforts in establishing an affiliation document that brings together the International HP User's Group and the National and Regional bodies.

He was recently elected to the board of directors of INTEREX (International Association of HP Computer Users). Gilchrist's previous roles as past-chairman of the Toronto User's Group and past-chairman of the Canadian National User's Group, have certainly paved the way for this position.

Gilchrist, a forty-one-year-old Hamilton native, has spent more than half his life in the data processing business. His specialty is operations management. Currently, he is the operations



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8 years. He is thankful for this record, he notes, since the DP turnover rate at a university is usually high. This low staff turnover rate is likely due to the wide variety of tasks his department is involved in, the flexible work environment and above all, good management.

The majority of projects Gilchrist's group is involved in deal with statistics. A VAX 750 and one of the four HP3000s are used for statistical purposes. Externally-funded research projects, local studies and multi-centred trials are some of the applications for which this equipment is used. In fact, this centre provides statistical analysis for a number of ongoing worldwide studies.

Gilchrist has been the manager of McMaster's HP3000 installation — the fourth in the world — since 1973. The single installation has grown into multiple HP3000s supporting a user network of nearly 250 terminals. The HP3000 devoted to statistical analysis uses 'Powerhouse', a fourth-generation language from the Canadian firm COGNOS.

Another of the HP3000s is used for word processing, while a third machine is used for clinical practices. The latter involves the development of medical systems in doctors' offices throughout the areas of Burlington, Hamilton, Freelon and Dundas. The remaining HP3000 is devoted to clinical laboratory applications within McMaster University and local city hospitals. This machine maintains medical lab data from departments such as microbiology, hematology and chemistry.

The Golden Horseshoe section is proud to have Don Gilchrist as a member. In the past eight years, his efforts have helped to substantially improve the section's financial position. Although he is noted for his low profile, Gilchrist's involvement in the data processing community has gained not just local, but international recognition.



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manager, computation services unit at McMaster University's faculty of health sciences. His responsibilities, he says, can be summed up in the term "hardware and dollars".

The seven members of Gilchrist's department have worked for him for 7-