

# COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE Makin' tracks on the slopes

by Deborah Quaille  
The Compass

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well on the slopes of Milton, flourishing in a group named Track 3.

Track 3, with its head office in Etobicoke, is a group of volunteers dedicated to teaching young people with mental, physical and/or intellectual challenges how to downhill ski. People from the community give their time - and love of skiing - to make the community a better place to be. The organization is a success for all; especially the hundreds of young people who through the challenge of skiing have discovered that than can lead active, productive lives.

The name Track 3 came from the three tracks left in the snow by the one ski and two outriggers. Today, the name remains synonymous with skiing for people with disabilities. The program was funded by the Easter Seal Society but operated by a small group of volunteers. Since the program proved so successful to amputees, it was not long before children with other disabilities, such as spina bifida or cerebral palsy were introduced into the program. Instructor training methods were developed to teach the skiers, but the program reached a plateau for many years with a limited number of skiers, donated equipment and no formal training program for volunteer instructors.

To meet the needs of other youngsters who could benefit from Track 3, the core group of volunteers set up a separate organization in 1987 and incorporated as the Ontario Track 3 Ski Association for the Disabled. To obtain their new goals, funds had to be raised for equipment, a training program developed, and the development of a board of directors and large team

of committed volunteers.

Sara Lo Turco knows all about Track 3. She's an Acton resident and attends Robert Little Public School, and enjoys the outdoor benefits of the program. Patti Wilcox, an instructor who resides in rural Milton, heard of the program for several years from a board member that lived in Oakville. After moving to the Milton area and realizing Track 3 was operating at Glen Eden, she decided to look into it.

"The volunteers aren't all necessarily super-duper skiers. There's a large contingent of support staff. If someone would just like to help in the program, that's okay; the work entails a variety of things.

"Spokes and Slopes are working with us now. In the evening program we have a huge number of students, so it's a great help to have Spokes and Slopes out." One student that Wilcox worked with last year had obviously outgrown her skis, and the business was there to fit her with appropriate new gear.

Currently eight schools are in operation and a new phase has begun with the introduction of spinal cord injured children who are unable to support themselves. Technically sophisticated sit-skiis, bi-skiis, and mono-skiis have made it possible for them to take up the challenge of the winter outdoors.

However, to run successfully, the program needs the support of the community. It costs approximately \$1,200 to allow one youth to ski for one season. New staff are always welcome and full training is provided. To find out more information about Ontario Track 3 Ski Association, please call 1-877-30-TRACK, email: track3@idirect.com or visit the website at track3.org



Photo by Louise Cook

Dashing through the snow: From left to right, John Rowland, Sara Lo Turco and Patti Wilcox enjoy a day on the slopes at Glen Eden as they participate in the Track 3 program.

# Of Kith and Kin

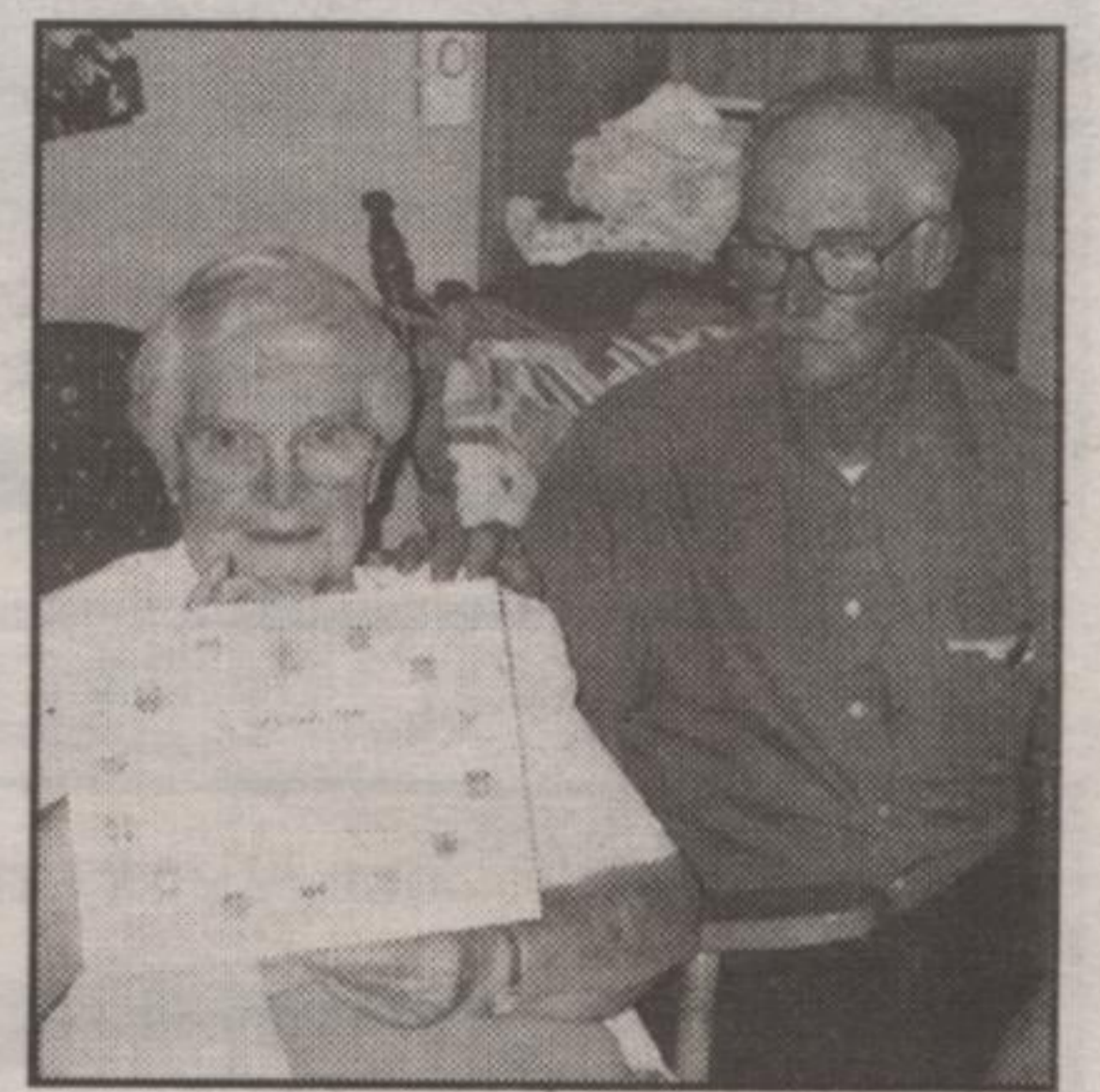
## CONGRATULATIONS

Wendy Dixon, daughter of Renee and Walt Dixon, Limehouse, has graduated from the Richard DeVos Graduate School of Management of Northwood University in Midland, Michigan. Wendy received her Masters of Business Administration, specializing in Integrated Management, on December 9, 2000. In May 1999, Wendy graduated from Northwood University with a Bachelor of Business Administration, majoring in Automotive Marketing and Management with a minor in International Business. Wendy intends to continue her studies in International Business. Wendy, we wish you happiness and success in all your future endeavours.

Mom and Dad



## BIRTHDAY



Elvera Parchem of Campbellville, pictured with her son Charlie, celebrated her 80th birthday in November with a multitude of friends, family and neighbours.

**Classified**  
FOR SALE: Clearnet cell phone, 1 year old, with soft case/wrist strap, battery charger; needs new battery pack. No signal in Rockwood, but works perfectly in Milton, Georgetown, etc. Deb 519-856-2386.



**KAREN'S FLOWER SHOP**

Valentine's Day is Wednesday, February 14th

487 Laurier Avenue, Milton 905-878-2881



## February Events at Milton Mall

**February 9 to 10:  
Sports Registration Days**  
Sign up for spring sports - Soccer, Baseball, Tennis Clubs, etc. taking registrations Friday evening and Saturday.



**January 31 to February 3:  
2001 New Car Show!**  
See the exciting lineup of vehicles on display throughout the mall.

**February 13,  
2-6 p.m.**  
Jim Paulson will be here from **CHWO AM 740** broadcasting live from the Mall. Prizes, giveaways to all who drop by the broadcast booth. Swing Dance with *The Dance Shop* beginning at 5 p.m. at Centre Court.



**February 5 to 14:  
Be Mine, Valentine!**

Enter ballots for Gift Baskets of your choice - five, each valued at \$150, will be given away on Valentine's Day. Ballots available in stores starting February 5th. Baskets and ballot box displayed at Centre Court.



**Regular Hours:**  
**Mon.-Fri. 9:30-9:00**  
**Sat. 9:30-6:00**  
**Sun. 12:00-5:00**

**Corner of Main  
& Ontario St., Milton**  
**905-878-3900**

**February 14 to 18:  
Regional Home Show**  
Renovations, home decor, and much more!

**February 21 to 24:  
Winter Antique Show**  
Dale's Hollow Antiques brings a host of new exhibitors!



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