

Good parenting requires sculptor's touch

By Kim Arnott
SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

Priest tells parents it's their job to bring out best in children

Parents and teachers are bridge-builders who help students cross hurdles and move along their lives' journeys, Father Jim Valk told about 340 Catholic parents from across Halton on Saturday.

Sometimes, said the pastor of St. Joseph's church in Hamilton, successfully building those bridges requires parents to look beyond outward appearances to see the good and the signs of growth in their child.

"Love allows us to see beyond appearances, in us and each other," he said. "We can always love a little bit more."

And with enough love, parents can act as sculptors, helping children discover all the good inside of them.

When we simply place a label such as "bad kid" on someone, we avoid dealing with them as they are, he added.

Valk, who lived South America for 14 years, told the story of his return home. He arrived at the airport with 14 boxes of "treasures" to bring home with him. But he discovered it was going to cost him \$2,000 to fly it all back.

While deciding what to eliminate, a friend gave him advice. "He asked me, 'If you were to die today, what would you need?'" Valk recalled.

After that, the decision was easy, so Valk urged parents to rid their lives of complications interfering with their

ability to successfully interact with their children.

"What gift, what inheritance do you really want to give your child?" he asked.

As keynote speaker for the Halton Catholic District School Board's third annual TIPS (Tips for Increasing Parenting Skills) conference, Valk kicked off a day of workshops and sessions focused on helping people parent more successfully.

The popular day-long conference was held at Oakville's St. Ignatius of Loyola Secondary School.

Eighteen different workshops were offered, with parents given the options

of exploring ways to act as career coaches for their children, dealing with bullies, boosting teen self-esteem, awakening their children's potential, setting boundaries and guidelines, recognizing stress and depression, talking with kids and recognizing drug and alcohol use.

Valk urged parents to make God the centre of their lives, to stand up against evil, to reach out to people and make a difference in the lives of others, and to enjoy the small things so often overlooked in a busy world.

"You're the people who turn on lights for people," he said. "That's the call of parenting, that's the call of education."

"You are rainbow-coloured people and you paint your children and the children you teach and the people you love with brush strokes."



"Love allows us to see beyond appearances, in us and each other. We can always love a little bit more."

-Father Jim Valk

Millennium Committee gets \$200,000 for Heritage Trails

The Oakville 2000 Millennium Committee has received a \$200,000 federal grant for its ambitious Heritage Trails project.

The \$200,000 grant from the Canada Millennium Partnership Program was announced Tuesday by Oakville MP Bonnie Brown.

"Federal support for this Millennium initiative will give Oakvillians the opportunity to mark the millennium in their own way and at the same time leave a permanent legacy for future generations," said Brown.

The total start-up cost for the Heritage Trails project is \$1.8 million.

The Oakville committee had applied for a \$400,000 grant from the Canada Millennium Partnership Program last May.

The grant was good news for organizers of the Heritage Trails project.

"There has been substantial work by this volunteer committee over the last two years and this grant is an honour to their efforts and the legacies that they and the community overall has been working to create," said Nancy Kelleher O'Dea, chair of the Oakville Millennium Committee.

"This will help us preserve the historical, environmental and botanical heritage of our community while uniting Oakville north with south and east with west," said Larry Wilson, chair of the Community Foundation of Oakville board of directors.

The Heritage Trails Project is a partnership between the Community Foundation of Oakville (CFO), which initiated the effort, the

CFO Trails Committee, which will finance the initiative, and the Oakville 2000 Millennium Committee, which is co-ordinating a number of fundraising events. The Town will build the trails then maintain them in perpetuity.

The aim of the project is to join together Oakville's four compass points by linking the town's three major north-south ravines with the

existing Waterfront and Larry Cain Trails along with trails already established in the north.

Linking Oakville's harbours, lakefront and heritage districts, the system will feature informative plaques so that all those who avail themselves of the trails can learn more about the area's history (aboriginal settlements, mills, etc.) and its natural wonders.

The project is expected to take five years to complete.

The just-completed initial leg runs roughly from Skyvalley Crescent on the west side of the Sixteen Mile Creek, into the creek valley and under the Smith-Triller Viaduct then up to Neyagawa Boulevard. The stretch planned for 2000 will continue on to Lions Valley Park.

Crook fleecing merchants in U.S. cash scam

A scam artist with a large roll of American money has swindled large sums money from two gullible merchants in Halton.

According to the Halton Regional Police, the well-executed scam that has bilked several businesses in the Greater Toronto Area over the past four months has recently scored big at least twice in Milton and Burlington.

Police warn the suspect usually approaches a store owner with a desire to exchange a

large sum of American Money for Canadian money for about 25 cents on the dollar instead of the nearly 50 cents on the dollar charged by banks.

The suspects lets the victim count the American money and attend a bank to determine whether the currency is authentic. The victim then hands over the Canadian money for the American money. But during the exchange, the suspect distracts the victim and

switches the original large sum of American currency with a bundle containing a \$100 bill on top and bottom — the rest of the bundle in between is \$1 bills.

The switch is not discovered until after the suspect is long gone.

Police urge small businesses to beware of any deals that appear "too good to be true," and to report any attempts at this type of transaction to the police.

Time running out for Dream Home Lottery early draw

On Fri. Nov. 12th, at Budd's BMW at 2400 S. Service Rd. W. in Oakville, one lucky winner will be handed the keys to a red 2000 BMW Z3 convertible in the Early Bird Draw for the Community Foundation of Oakville Great Dream Home Lottery.

The Z3 offers strong performance attributes without sacrificing comfort or long-range

driveability. Behind the wheel, you are instantly at home and immediately in command sitting in the four-way adjustable power seat. Every gauge is perfectly calculated to inform without distraction, every control placed for instinctive use.

This could be your year to revel in the freedom of the open sky and feel the BMW's

instantaneous response, as you put this car through its paces.

One ticket is still just \$40. Or you can better your chances with three tickets for just \$100.

But you have to have purchased your ticket before Nov. 6th, at 9 p.m. to ensure that it is in the Early Bird draw. Just call 845-2010.

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\$0 DOWN	\$1500 DOWN	\$4000 DOWN
\$348 PER MO.	\$298 PER MO.	\$228 PER MO.
3.8% LEASE	3.8% LEASE	3.8% LEASE

*Sale prices plus freight, PDE, admin. fee. All taxes and license fee. Retail delivery allowance has been applied and cannot be combined with low financing or leasing. **Leases based on 36 months (2000 Neon 48 mths.) with down payments as shown plus taxes, freight, PDE, admin. fee, license, first payment, security deposit and taxes extra. 20,400km/yr. 12km average. †Purchase financing or leasing rate is available in lieu of retail delivery allowance. eg. \$15000 financed at 0% on 99 Cirrus over 48 months in lieu of \$1750 retail delivery allowance monthly payment is \$312.57 and cost of borrowing is \$0 effective interest rate 7.25% OAC. Minimum financing term 48 months. 1999 Sebring: 48 mo. lease, \$4,000 down plus freight, taxes, first & sec.

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