Good parenting requires sculptor's touch

SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

Parents and teachers are bridgebuilders who help students cross hurtles 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.

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

When we simply place a label such as ability to successfully interact with "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

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 their children.

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

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

existing Waterfront and Larry Cain Trails along

enjoy the small things so often over-

lights for people," he said. "That's the

call of parenting, that's the call of edu-

and you paint your children and the

children you teach and the people you

You're the people who turn on

"You are rainbow-coloured people

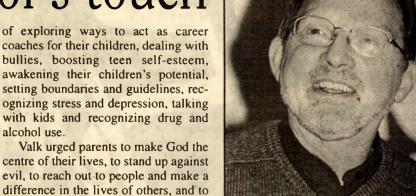
looked in a busy world.

love with brush strokes."

Linking Oakville's harbours, lakefront and

The project is expected to take five years to

2000 will continue on to Lions Valley Park.



"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 CFO Trails Committee, which will finance the 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 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 with trails already established in the north.

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.

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

Crook fleecing merchants in U.S. cash scam

A scam artist with a large roll of American large sum of American Money for Canadian 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

money for about 25 cents on the dollar instead of the nearly 50 cents on the dollar charged by

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 a store owner with a desire to exchange a exchange, the suspect distracts the victim and

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

switches the original large sum of American

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 trans-

Time running out for Dream Home Lottery early draw

On Fri. Nov. 12th, at Budds' 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 dom of the open sky and feel the BMW's

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 free-

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

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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