



PHOTO - CROMBIE McNEILL

## Marg Credico

STORY BY HENRY BURY, THE INTELLIGENCER

*Inter April 21/02 Sunday p. 3*  
and come together several times to rehearse as a group.

Their concert is scheduled for May 24 at Prince Charles School.

"It's a really nice program...and they sing like angels. The sound of the combined voices is just wonderful."

Credico said the program isn't just about music because the seniors and students are like penpals.

"Partners share life experiences, treasure each other's letters, bonds are created and a wonderful sense of achievement is experienced by seniors and young. It bridges the generation gap...and more," she said.

Credico said Belleville has been good to her "and it is important to me to be able to give something back to this community."

Belleville hasn't been Credico's only home, though. She was born in Montreal and grew up in Edmonton. She completed high school and enrolled in the education program at the University of Alberta to pursue a teaching career.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Education with a major in English and a minor in drama in 1966 and, a year later, married Brian, whom she had met during university.

The family moved to Ottawa and she taught senior elementary school for five years.

Credico retired from teaching in 1971 because her husband's job with Bell Northern Research and then Nortel took the family to France in 1971-72 (their

son, Christophe, was born there), then Ottawa, Galway in Ireland for three years and Windsor in England.

The Credicos returned to Ottawa in 1977 and moved to Belleville in the spring of 1978. They remained here until 1993 when Nortel offered them the opportunity of moving to England again.

They lived in Maidenhead for three years and returned to Belleville — for good — in the summer of 1996.

Credico said she was always volunteering in school while her son was growing up "so I never really took my hand out of teaching."

She's especially proud of participating in a unique in-school program using puppets to help students understand about divorce, emotional difficulties, Down's Syndrome and cerebral palsy.

From 1988 to 1993 with fellow puppeteers Hazel Thompson and Marilyn Kirkman, Credico used Kids on the Block puppets to perform plays about children with differences on behalf of Beechgrove Children's Centre and later, with Children's Mental Health.

"It was amazing volunteer work because you felt kids were really learning something through these puppets."

Besides her music and church, Credico enjoys sailing aboard their 26-foot Grampian, which they have owned for the past 30 years, canoeing, reading, travelling "and keeping in touch with our many friends who live in various parts of the world."