

Charity dance-athon saddled by no-shows

The turn-out at last weekend's fund-raising dance-athon for muscular dystrophy in Georgetown was anything but encouraging, but its youthful organizers say they'll try again sometime.

Kevin McLaughlan, 18, and Russ Buirstow, 16, both Georgetown residents, say they'd like to try the marathon dance idea in Toronto in conjunction with the Toronto Youth Conference.

The "42-hour" dance-athon at Gordon Alcott Arena ended about 13 hours early when Kevin told the handful of dancers on hand Saturday night that it wasn't worth continuing. They'd collected \$135 in dancers' pledges for the fight against crippling muscular dystrophy, and more than \$200 was raised through a separate door-to-door canvass. There were no spectators at the dance-athon to add to the fund, the young men reported.

Nor did any of the special guests show up. Murray McLaughlan, the Toronto-based folk rock singer who performed at Ontario Place Friday night, failed to take nephew Kevin up on his invitation to a family dinner and a guest appearance at the dance-athon.

Despite the optimism of Darryl Sittler's agent as to the hockey star's chances of showing up, Kevin said, the Toronto Maple Leaf captain was nowhere to be seen. Canada Cup viewers got a glimpse of Sittler watching Friday night's game from the stands.

CKMW disc jockies Cliff Dumas and Joe Melissa say they helped Kevin and Ross as much as the Brampton radio station would allow, but the rescheduling of the dance-athon from August prevented their personal appearances. Mr. Melissa delivered his own stereo equipment to Alcott Arena Friday and the station provided albums as well as

publicly announcements. Other expected guests failed to show as well, including the Halton regional policemen assigned to keep an eye on things. There was little, if anything, to keep an eye on, an unavoidable fact which left both organizers crushed.

"We did a lot of advertising in the papers, with CKMW and through the Jerry Lewis (Labor Day) telethon (for muscular dystrophy)," Kevin said. "I don't think this town cares much about muscular dystrophy or we'd have had a much better turn-out."

Renting the Alcott hall cost the young men \$450. They spent another \$313 on soft drinks and \$20 on donuts.



DANCE TO FITNESS

Laurie Burns (left) and Virginia Walker will be running the fall session of Dancefit which begins Sept. 28. Mrs. Burns has been offering the unique fitness program, which turns dance steps into good cardiovascular exercise, for almost a year in the Georgetown area. Miss Walker, a veteran of the Dancefit program here, is starting the fall season as an assistant instructor. Registration for the program will be held at 7:15 p.m. in Howard Wrigglesworth School Sept. 28.

(Herald photo)



ANSWERING THE ACTIVAN CALL

Answering the ActiVan committee's recent appeal for operating funds, the Royal Canadian Legion's (Georgetown) Branch 120 donated \$1,000 Thursday to help keep the special bus service for disabled and senior citizens on the road. Presenting ActiVan committee chairman Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson (second from right) with the cheque are (left to right) entertainment committee chairman Lloyd Housnell, Ladies

Auxiliary president Hazel Dumper, Branch 120 president Harold Hadham and executive member and Branch publicist Tom Elliott. The donation was one of several contributions to community projects the Legion makes each year, raising funds through a variety of its own projects to put the branch, as President Hadham said, "behind the community 100 per cent". (Herald photo by Harold Housnell)

Wanted! Just \$20,000 more

Herald Special
WANTED: \$20,000 a week in donations and pledges over the next five weeks to put the Library and Cultural Centre fund-raising drive over the top. Last week - the first week in the big blitz to woo funds from the commercial and industrial sector - the thermometer made its biggest jump in months: up by \$15,000.

"This means that for the first time, fund-raisers are looking at a five-rather than a six-figure completion target," said Brenda Sissett. "We still need \$94,000 which of course is a sizeable amount, but if all the companies in town could donate something, I'm confident we can do it."

Mrs. Sissett, who is heading up a "last-ditch" personal business-industrial canvass prior to the centre's official opening Oct. 18, said the \$15,000 in pledges - from as yet unpublished sources - was a direct result of the new push for funds.

"If only other businesses and companies will now feel comfortable in coming forward," she said. "Given today's economic situation I know firsthand it is not always easy for them to do so, but this centre is going to be an asset to the entire community."

Echoing her sentiments, Rud Whiting, who is also on the fund-raising "action team" said: "We feel it is significant that much of the \$120,000 which has been raised to date has come in amounts of \$100 or less - a strong indication of the support this project enjoys within the community at large."

How much to give is always a difficult question, but one commercial establishment had a novel formula which fund-raisers hope other corporate donors might consider: one per cent of the total goal.

"While we appreciate that \$2,300 in a single jump sum might be too much for many small businesses and companies, such a donation might be more manageable if it was spread over three years in the form of a pledge," Mrs. Sissett said.

Although the emphasis is currently on the commercial and industrial sector, fund-raisers are hoping donations and pledges by individuals will continue. One increasingly popular method of giving is via the two wall hangings which will hang in the new theatre in perpetuity. Georgetown Rug Hookers, in collaboration with Halton Hills Arts Council, has offered to hook the two tapestry-style hangings each containing 50 names. The names displayed can either be those of donors or in memory of others.

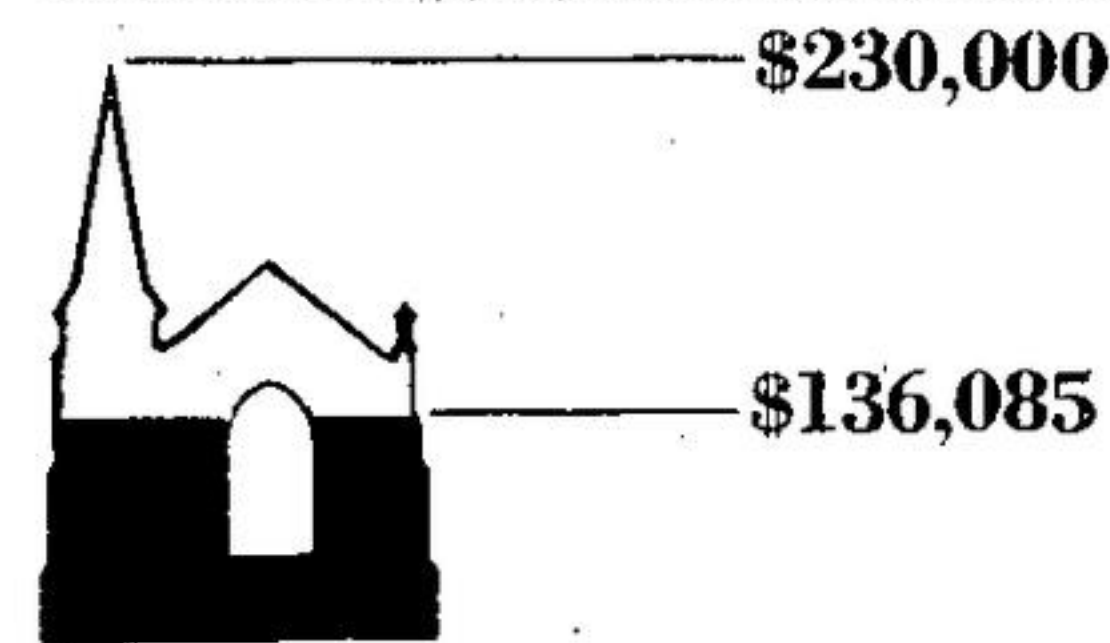
The most recent name-space purchasers are: Fred, Marilyn, Shirley, Susan and Alan Giray - In Memory of John Frederick

Giray Georgetown Motor Inn Mrs. Helen Hyde - Lynne

Hyde For details of this unique name-donation method-an al-

ternate to the fully-subscribed seat-plates scheme (see separate story-picture) - contact

John Roe (877-2824) or Arts Council president Elizabeth Shore (877-8160).



ARTS COMPLEX FUND

How they did it

Further details of the Halton Hills arts community's efforts in raising funds for the new library-cultural centre are provided in the Halton Hills Arts Council's fall calendar. Appealing for new members and additional public support, the Council reports that the schoolchildren's colorful historical mural erected to beautify the Market Street construction site raised \$2,130 through its business sponsors. The Summerfest Old Tyme Music Hall last June raised another \$1,542 thanks to an amalgamation of local performers. The University Women's Club took interested citizens on a tour of historically and architecturally significant homes in the area, raising \$1,650. The Georgetown Choral Society's "Yes We Can" campaign for donations raised \$1,250, and the Georgetown Little Theatre collected \$2,000 for commemorative seat plaques in the new theatre.

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