

# Centennial student program is a learning feast

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald  
To watch Carol-Lynn  
Carpenter and her classmates

confidently stock up the bins at  
Subway in Georgetown with fresh  
produce and greet customers with  
ease, you would never know

these young trainees are special  
needs students who find  
academic studies especially try-  
ing.



Subway owner-manager Leonard Pellizzari (third from left) had lots of help Tuesday morning serving customers as his three co-op students from Centennial Middle School's lifeskills class (left to right) Matthew Hyde, Carol-Lynn Carpenter and Alex Vorne along with their teacher, Bob Tadman

(far right) arrived for their last day of work. The special needs students have been co-oping at Subway for months and had a special party Tuesday to celebrate their successes in the work program. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

Thanks to teacher Bob Tadman's ideas and the patience and enthusiasm of Subway owner-manager Leonard Pellizzari, Carol-Lynn and two of her classmates, Alex Vorne and Matthew Hyde have been given a chance to learn practical skills and build up their self-esteem at the same time.

Carol-Lynn, Alex and Matthew co-op once a week at the Subway shop helping Mr. Pellizzari get the store ready for the day's business as part of their lifestyles class at Centennial Middle School. Taught by Mr. Tadman, the class is made up of seven special needs students who have either mental or physical handicaps or both.

Because of their disabilities, they find class learning challenging, said Mr. Tadman, who started the co-op program to give the students a boost to their self-confidence they don't always receive during academic study.

It started in November last year when the 12 to 14-year-old students began helping out at the Georgetown Love and Christ Food Bank and sorting materials for Georgetown Yarn and Crafts in the classroom. Mr. Tadman and three instructional assistants, Helen Rehberg, Rachelle Worburton and Carol Harper, supervise the class.

The class often went to Subway for lunch and after telling Mr. Pellizzari about the work experience program, Mr. Tadman was delighted to find out Mr.

Pellizzari was interested in having several students help him out at the store.

"It takes a lot to open up and take the risk to work with students at this age level, let alone students with special needs," said Mr. Tadman. "Leonard has been great, he has a lot of patience."

Mr. Pellizzari said he wanted to be involved with the program because he thinks there is a need for it.

"I have a sister who faces similar learning disabilities as these students but she never had the chance to do what these kids are doing," he said.

The co-oping has worked out very well for Subway and the students it seems. Mr. Pellizzari said he'd be happy to get involved with the program again next year and students Carol-Lynn and Alex admit they have lots of fun working at the food store.

Carol-Lynn has done so well in the program, she even filled in for a Subway employee one day, who was late coming into work.

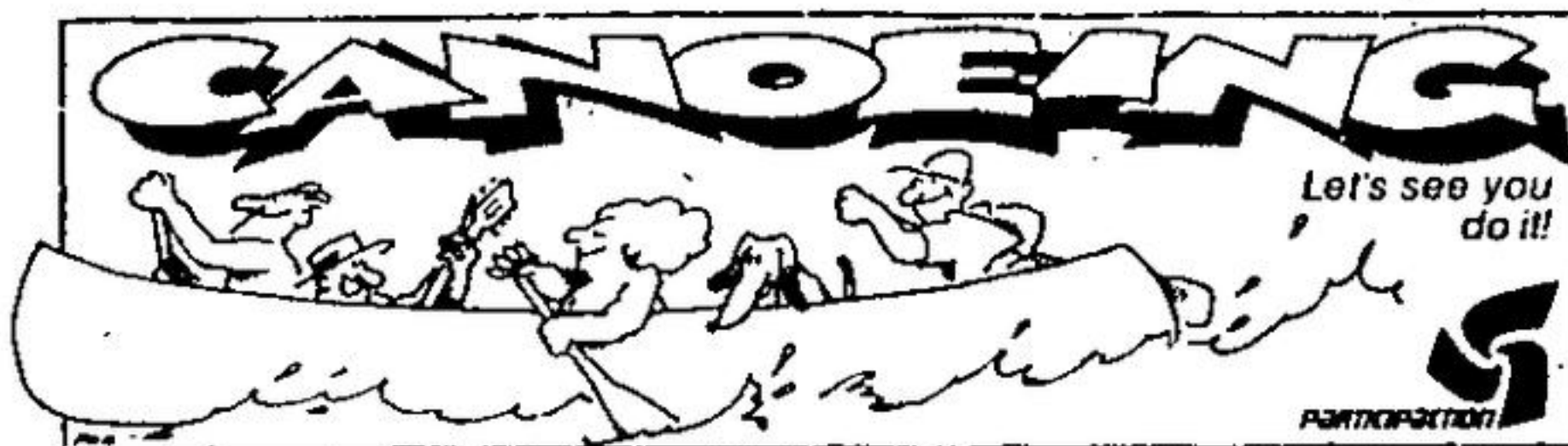
To celebrate their successes and finish off the school year, the whole group had a party at Subway Tuesday afternoon where students made, and then ate, a four-foot long sub sandwich. They also presented a plaque to Mr. Pellizzari for his commitment to the program.

"It's gone over very well," concluded Mr. Tadman. "It really gave them a sense of being able to succeed in the world."



It was party time at 'Subway' in the Halton Hills Shopping Centre Tuesday for students and teachers of Centennial Middle School Lifestyles class, of which three students co-op at Subway. The group, teacher Bob Tadman; instructional assistants Helen Rehberg, Rachelle Worburton, and Carol Harper; Subway owner-manager Leonard Pellizzari (all standing) and students (back bench, left to

right) Matthew Hyde, Stephanie Schmeler and Jamie Blair and (front bench, left to right) Carol-Lynn Carpenter, Alex Vorne and Tom May plus Aimee Eisan (in wheelchair) all gathered to make and eat a four-foot long party sub to celebrate the school year end. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)



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