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Georgetown student in tune with Boston Symphony

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

Georgetown High School student Sarah Howitt has no plans to become a professional musician but that didn't stop her from auditioning and being accepted as a music student at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.

Miss Howitt, 18, of R.R.5, Milton, has just come home from

spending two weeks at Boston University playing and practicing her clarinet with members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Together, the school and the orchestra offer the musical training sessions at the Tanglewood Music Centre in Lenox.

"I auditioned for the chance to be accepted on a whim," said Miss Howitt. "I was at

Tanglewood as a listener and after asking participants about the program I just decided to audition. I never really believed I'd get in."

But get in she did, to become one of 13 clarinetists who were accepted out of 50 applications, from musicians around the world.

"It was a chance to study with the world's best," said Miss Howitt. Some of the most famous and prestigious musicians are alumni of the institute."

A public relations staff assistant with the University, Sacha Pfeiffer, said the famous composer-conductor Leonard Bernstein was an alumni of Tanglewood along with the Boston Symphony Orchestra's current music conductor, Seiji Ozawa.

While at Tanglewood Institute, Miss Howitt said she had three hours of masterclass a day which involved performing in front of the other clarinet players in her session and having them evaluate her music.

The group also worked on the mechanical side of the instrument and listened to presentations on how to write music, how



Sarah Howitt

to play and how to market clarinets.

"I definitely know more now," she said. "I polished musical pieces I knew before arriving at Tanglewood and found the other clarinet players were a great support group. Going to Tanglewood was a wonderful way to meet people from around the world - I made friends with clarinetists from France, Austria, Greenland and other countries."

She adds that most of the musicians in her class have plans to someday become professional clarinetists, but that's never been

a dream of hers.

"I never had the desire. I don't think I'm self-disciplined enough to become a professional," she said. "It's just a hobby for me."

But she doesn't intend to stray too far out of the world of music. Her goal is to become an orchestra manager.

Being accepted into the Tanglewood Institute isn't the first time Miss Howitt has been recognized for her musical talent. For the last two years, she's been a member of the Hamilton Youth Orchestra and hopes to be again this year. Previously, she was a member of the Halton Youth Orchestra in Oakville for six years.

Miss Howitt has also competed in the Kiwanis Music Festival in Toronto for the past seven years and at the Milton Music Festival in the last two years and placed in the top third every year, winning scholarships every time.

Miss Howitt has studied the clarinet for 11 years and will be a senior at Georgetown District High School in Georgetown this fall.

Late bloomer excels in triathlon competition

By ROB RISK
Herald Sports Editor

As somebody who didn't take part in athletics while in high school, Georgetown resident Linda Kirk has definitely made up for lost time in the Canadian Triathlon circuit recently.

At the Canadian Ironman competition in Penticton, British Columbia last year, a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bicycle course and a 26.2 mile run, Kirk placed eighth, qualifying for the Hawaiian Ironman. This year, she placed third in the Stoney Creek Biathlon, third at the Guelph Lake Sprint Triathlon and fourth at the King City Triathlon.

"I guess I'm a late bloomer. I didn't do any sports at all in school since I was more of a brain and concentrated on my courses. A few years ago, I just found I had an aptitude for it, so I've been doing triathlons for four years now."

As a result of her success this season, Kirk has been asked to become a member of the Canadian National Team, which will be representing Canada at the World Championships in Australia this October. To prepare for the competition, she said a stepped up training pro-

gram has been instituted.

"I've been swimming eight miles every week and every day I spend four to five hours on two of the three events. Swimming is my least favorite of the three, so I'm always trying to improve there."

Competing in the 35-39 age group, Kirk said she has been doing especially well in the shorter triathlons and is currently second in the Marvelous Muffins Sprint Series. Sprint triathlons generally involve a one kilometre swim, 25 miles on the bike and runs shorter than 10 kilometres. The best five of seven series races determines the competitor's final standings.

"I find triathlons to be very challenging. I enjoy them because I get to make a lot of friends. There are so few women competing in the long distance triathlons that we tend to stick together."

As for the future, Kirk said she will likely continue to compete until she gets bored, which probably won't happen soon. She is planning on competing in at least two more major events (possibly Hawaii if she can qualify) and one in Penticton, which is her favorite meet.



Linda Kirk

Hospital study for seniors

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital will soon begin a study to determine what health and social services Halton Hills' seniors will need to stay in their home as long as possible.

Executive Director John Oliver confirmed Friday the hospital has been granted \$25,000 by the province to carry out the study.

As part of the review, the hospital will take a complete inventory of non-institutional seniors related health and social services to determine what the community does and does not have, said Mr. Oliver.

The study's steering committee, which is comprised of Mr. Oliver, five seniors from Acton and Georgetown and representatives from various social service agencies, will consider such issues as Day Hospitals and transportation. Mr. Oliver wouldn't reveal the names of the other committee members.

Day Hospitals will be institutions which permit seniors to receive treatment during the day and still return home at night. This kind of service requires the steering community to look at available transportation for seniors to travel between the Day Hospital and their home, he said.

Another service to be considered, said Mr. Oliver, is the establishment of apartments with health-related support services. That way seniors can receive the care they need while living in housing that closely resembles a home-like atmosphere, he explained.

Mr. Oliver said, "direct feedback from seniors and improved linkings between service providers are crucial to the success of the review."

To solicit public opinion, Mr. Oliver said he hopes a Town Hall meeting at the Civic Centre will be held to discuss seniors' health and social services in the community.

He stressed no definitive decision has been made on whether a town hall meeting will be held.

The study is expected to be completed sometime this December, said Mr. Oliver.



Fun on the slide

Nine-year-old Derek Waterworth makes good use of his last few hours of the Georgetown Summer Day Camp with some fun on the slide at Cedarvale Park Summer Day Camps in Georgetown, run by the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department, finished up last week. (Herald photo)