

# living IN THE HILLS



Sharon Dutton of Georgetown finds great enjoyment playing on her baby grand piano and hopes to share that love of music with young children in the

"Music for Fun" classes she will be offering at St. George's Anglican Church on Guelph St. starting Sept. 16. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

## Classes available for children to explore their musicianship

By Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot  
The Herald

Georgetown musician Sharon Dutton believes children should first learn music by feeling it within themselves so she's starting 'Music for Fun', offering weekly classes for young children to explore their own musicianship.

Starting Monday at St. George's Anglican Church on Guelph St. in Georgetown, Ms. Dutton will begin teaching children aged two to 12 movement, speech, singing, instrumental and improvisational activities.

"I want children to feel music within themselves," said Ms. Dutton. "Once they've learned to feel music, it provides a good basis for say a six-year-old to start piano lessons because they'll already have a well-developed sense of

rhythm and good sound versus bad sound."

Ms. Dutton said the single most basic skill of the musician is listening.

"Skill and knowledge will follow and will serve our aural tastes," she said. "Now, I want to work with what children are naturally able to do, play games dance and sing."

In her classes, she said students will develop their singing voices and listening abilities by learning rhymes, songs and singing games. There will also be time spent on instruments including xylophones, glockenspiels, drums, bells and other percussion instruments.

Ms. Dutton said the classes will be similar to the way musical training is offered by the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto

where she trained to receive her piano teacher's diploma. She has also studied piano performance with prominent Canadian and European teachers such as Elsie Albarda, Jean-Paul Sevilla, Sylvia Novak and Irena Kugacheva.

The mother of two children has also just graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Music Education.

"The degree was tailored to span music education requirements of the boards of education from Kindergarten to OAC, including classroom application," she said.

Besides schooling, Ms. Dutton is a music director with St. George's Anglican Church, an organist for St. John's United Church in Glen Williams and is a past music director at Hillcrest United Church in Hornby. She also provides private piano instruction and is a volunteer in the primary music instruction at Holy Cross Separate School.

Of her teaching, Ms. Dutton says "I can teach piano technique, music theory, music history, I can share my knowledge and experience related to piano and music, but I'm just a facilitator and this is superficial teaching. Musicianship is developed internally while we are still very small. The best piano students are those who, among other things, have already acquired an appreciation for music, have already established a natural sense of rhythm and have already developed their listening abilities."

This year, she plans to offer three levels of teaching for children aged two to six on Friday mornings and Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Next year, she hopes to introduce another three levels for children aged seven to 12.

She can handle eight children per class and is charging \$75 for two to three-year-olds per term (there are three terms per year) and \$90 for four to six years olds per term.

For more information, call Sharon Dutton at 873-1177.

## New church arrives in Halton Hills

By Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot  
The Herald

Reverend Dr. John Hamilton isn't afraid to knock on doors to invite people to attend Stewarttown's new church, the Open Door Evangelical Church.

He's been spending the last couple of weeks meeting new people and spreading the message that starting Sept. 15, he will hold the inaugural service for the one-of-a-kind church which was formed in Etobicoke nine years ago and will now be based in the Halton Hills community at Stewarttown Middle School's library.

Rev. Dr. Hamilton, who founded the Open Door Evangelical Church, says it's a "non-denominational, bible-teaching, Christ-centred church."

The congregation of the church decided to move out of Etobicoke because many of its younger members were leaving the Etobicoke community to find affordable homes and in turn, leaving the church as well.

"There are very few young couples in Etobicoke," said Rev. Dr. Hamilton, "and a church community can't grow if there's nothing at the bottom to feed it."

Realizing many of their younger families were moving to the Georgetown area, remaining church members decided to move the church here as well.

"We're a family type church. We want to be a part of Georgetown," said Rev. Dr. Hamilton. "This won't be a satellite church. This will be the church. We want to make Georgetown our home."

He said new members coming

into the congregation will find the atmosphere "happy, warm and friendly. We're expressive. The people enjoy worship and enjoy participating in the worship."

The type of worship reflects how he feels about Christ said Rev. Dr. Hamilton.

"I'm not like your stereotypical minister. I find Christ exciting and I attempt to express that from the pulpit," he said.

Rev. Dr. Hamilton has been an ordained minister since 1982 when he became involved with the Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated which ordains ministers for independent ministry.

His background is with the United Church but when the United Church decided to ordain homosexuals, he left the church.

"I don't support the ordination of homosexual ministers, and the changing of articles of faith in the United denomination," he said.

Presently, Rev. Dr. Hamilton his wife Jane and their five-year-old son Andrew (another child is on the way) are temporarily living in a home in Georgetown until they find a house to settle down in the area.

He's been knocking on doors and informing people about the new church while looking for a site where the future church building of the Open Door Evangelical church will be built.

There are already a couple of sites he's interested in.

For now, he's preparing the inaugural sermon for the opening day and is asking that if anyone is interested in attending or has any questions about the church and its message, to call him at 873-8822.



### Special celebration

It was a time for joy and reflection Friday evening at the Acton Legion when Lloyd and Eileen Burt of Halton Hills celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple shared this happy occasion with family and friends.



Rev. Dr. John Hamilton has been knocking on people's doors to inform Halton Hills residents about a new church - the Open Door Evangelical Church - which he's starting in Stewarttown. The inaugural services of the non-denominational church will be held Sunday at the Stewarttown Public School Library at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Herald photo)