

Wednesday, October 9, 1991

Music student reaches for the top

A world-class musician



By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

Ever since she heard the sound of the duck in the musical piece, 'Peter and the Wolf', Leanne Atkinson of Glen Williams knew she wanted to play oboe. Now, she's playing the oboe for the Toronto Youth Symphony Orchestra.

"In Grade 5, I heard a rendition of Peter and the Wolf, where the oboe is a duck, the clarinet is a cat, etc and I liked the sound of it,"

remembers 17-year-old Miss Atkinson who's in her OAC year at Georgetown District High School.

But it wasn't until she entered GDHS that she had the chance to play the double-reed woodwind instrument. All during public school and up to Grade 11, she took piano lessons, becoming more and more skilled until she earned her Grade 7 in piano.

Once she realized her skill for the oboe was as bountiful as her en-

joyment of the instrument, she decided to give up piano to concentrate fully on the oboe lessons she was, and is receiving from Jim Mason, who plays in the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra.

The same year she gave up piano, she auditioned and was accepted into the Halton Youth Symphony. A year later, in the Hamilton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and this year, in the Toronto Youth Symphony Orchestra.

"I wanted to try out for Toronto because they're the top orchestra in Ontario and compete internationally," she said. "My teacher also encouraged me to play with musicians who would be better than me."

She auditioned, and admits she was shocked when she was accepted.

Though she's no longer the principal oboe player, she is playing the principal position in one of the two songs the orchestra is currently rehearsing. In the other song, she plays second principal with the English Horn, an instrument often termed the tenor oboe.

And how does she like it. "It's just great," she says.

The accomplishment of being accepted into the orchestra isn't totally unexpected to those who've seen her win the Grade 11 music award and being accepted into the interprovincial music camps I.M.C. near Barrie.

She hopes next to be accepted as a professional musician in an orchestra. They way things are going for this young musician, it doesn't look like anything's going to stand in her way.

Georgetown District High School student Leanne Atkinson, can be accepted as a world-class musician since she auditioned and was accepted to play oboe in the Toronto Youth Symphony Orchestra. The symphony competes internationally and brings Ms. Atkinson one step closer to her dream of being a professional musician. (Herald Photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

Pre-schooler conference

Can a pre-schooler become computer literate? Should science be a part of the early childhood curriculum? Can we raise our children without raising the roof?

These are just some of the issues which will be explored during the 16th annual conference of the Shoreline Co-operative Preschools Corporation. The conference, which will be held November 2 at University of Toronto's Erindale campus, offers 35 different workshops providing practical, up-to-date information on the parenting and educating of our preschoolers.

This year's conference will focus on science and technology in the preschool years, with workshops on computers and science running throughout the day. Other workshops include: facilitating creativity in children, the magical language of music, and physical education for preschoolers.

Those looking for parenting ad-

vice can attend sessions on coping with parental stress and anger, effective discipline, methods and ideas to help children cope with separation and divorce.

The workshops are led by qualified educators and professionals committed to nurturing the mental and physical health and development of preschoolers and their families.

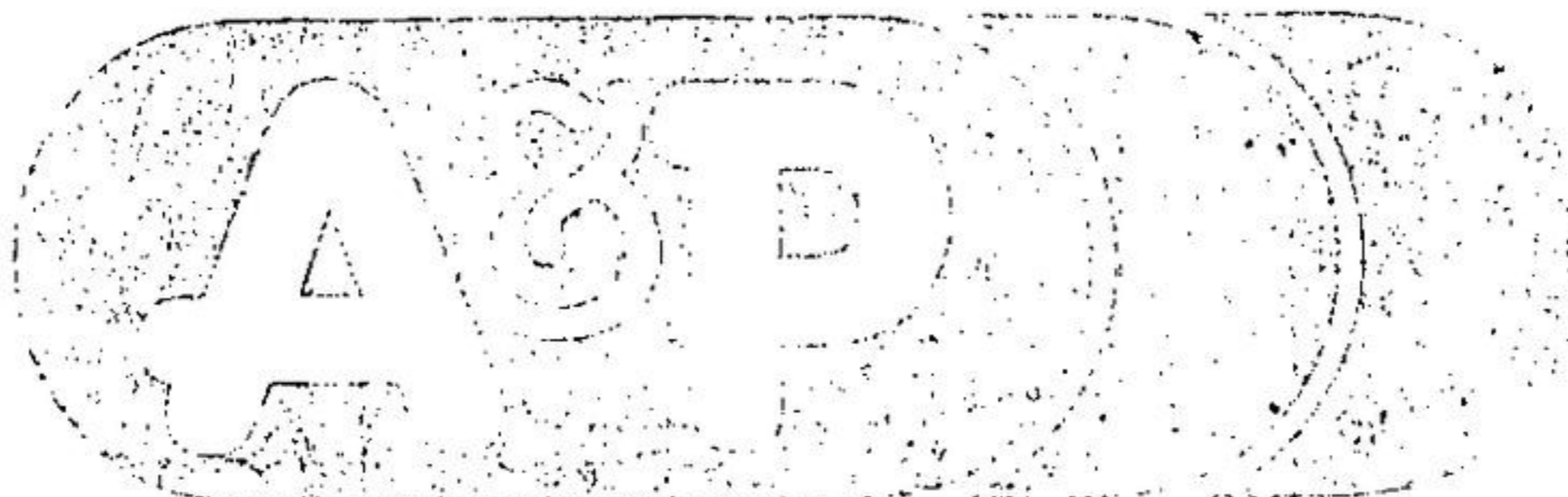
Registration for full and half-day sessions are still open to all, including the general public. Fees are \$70 for full day participation (lunch included) and \$55 for the half day. Special rates for Shoreline members and alumni are available.

The Shoreline Co-operative Preschools Corporation is a non-profit organization of co-operative preschools representing more than 3,000 families in Etobicoke and Peel and Halton regions.

For registration information please call Margie Lyons at 828-9618.

Prices effective thru
Sunday October 13,
1991. All Stores Closed
Thanksgiving
Monday October 14.

We reserve the right to limit quantities to normal family requirements. Coupon items limited to two.



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