

Allergy aware program sparks interest

Local restaurants and eateries have shown interest in joining a new "allergy aware program" started by the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association (C.R.F.A.).

Brenda Gove, owner of The Copper Kettle Restaurant, located on Main Street in Georgetown, said although she had not yet heard of the new program, she was definitely interested in joining.

Ms. Gove said the Copper Kettle already takes some precautions in food preparation and customer service.

"We cook our own food so we can often suggest other dishes. We get quite a few people in who suffer from food allergies and since we know what goes into each dish, we can offer them alternatives," said Ms. Gove.

She also said approximately two

years ago, her restaurant was chosen by the Heart and Stroke Foundation to be the top restaurant in Halton Hills to offer choices of dietic dressings, butter or margarine, etc.

Belamy's Restaurant, located on Guelph Street in Georgetown, is also interested in implementing the program.

Terry Moore, assistant manager of Belamy's said he has encountered many customers with specific food allergies, but had not heard about the new program from C.R.F.A.

"We do have some information on food allergies but we got that from one of our customers," said Mr. Moore. He said a customer with an allergic reaction to milk came in to eat and was the one who gave him the information.

C.R.F.A. started the allergy aware program after testing the

concept of allergy information in Toronto.

"We wanted to let the restaurants know they have a role to play. We provide education to the restaurants about the severity of food allergies," said Robin Garrett, director of information and research.

C.R.F.A. announced the launch of an expansion program Nov. 6 through a press release.

The press release stated the program was set up because, with many independent restaurants, control of ingredients and recipes, and knowledge of food technology were not consistent.

It also stated restaurants participating in the program would need to display an "allergy aware" decal on store windows and put up in-store posters explaining to customers, the different aspects of the program.

In order to qualify for the program, restaurants would have to provide either ingredient information of three of their own meals, three of their pre-packaged meals or food allergy and sensitivity charts.

Ms. Garrett said C.R.F.A.'s list of restaurants deals mainly with Toronto restaurants. But she said, many restaurant chains involved, such as McDonalds and The Keg have locations across the country.

The press release also stated restaurants must designate and train one manager and one senior staff member for each of the restaurant's shifts. Information on allergic reactions and the importance of ingredient information to both cook and allergy sufferers are stressed.

C.R.F.A. provides education, information and representation to restaurants, quick-service businesses, hotels, caterers, institutions, educators and food-service suppliers in Canada.



Talent Show splendor

Centennial Middle School student Kate Potosky was definitely on her toes during her dance performance at the school's annual Talent Show Friday. The show included a wide variety of entertainment including lip sync, artists, singers, and dancers. (Herald Photo)

Local illustrator awards finalist

A children's book illustrated by Georgetown artist Joanne Fitzgerald has made the short list of one of Canada's most prestigious literary awards.

Fitzgerald is one of five English-language finalists in the Children's Literature Illustration category for the 1991 Governor General's Literary Awards, the Canada Council announced this week. She received the nomination for her illustrations in Doctor Kiss Says Yes, a children's book written by Teddy Jam.

The judges who determined the final cut for the award praised Fitzgerald's unusual illustration of the story's heroine, Dr. Kiss.

"Fitzgerald's witty, dream-like pictures perfectly capture the

heroine of Teddy Jam's story," they said. "There is enchantment in this book."

The book tells the story of a little girl's fantasy of nursing a young white knight to health.

The names of the winners for each category will be revealed Dec. 3 at the Winter Garden Theatre in Toronto. The prizes will be presented by Gov. Gen. Ray Hnatyshyn.

Five finalists were named in each category, in both English and French, including fiction, poetry, drama, non-fiction, children's literature and translation. A total of 1,160 works were nominated for the awards, considered major honors in Canadian literature.

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