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Bill & Valerie Manes

Ma Bell extending local calling area

BY CINDY LUNAU
NASSAGAWEYA

The local area for Milton will soon be expanded to include another two million telephone numbers. Following CRTC approval, Bell Canada announced that the toll free telephone for the Milton exchanges will increase from the current 200,000 to 2.1 million by the fall of 1999.

The expanded area will include all exchanges in the 416 area code, as well as 905 exchanges in Streetsville and Makton. Selected exchanges in the 519 area code will include Orangeville, Hillsburg, Grand Valley and Mount Forest.

It is anticipated that Rockwood exchanges will be expanded to include Erin, Hillsburg and Orangeville by the fall of 1998. The expanded Guelph area will include Grand Valley, Mount Forest and Orangeville.

A total of 642 exchanges will be affected. The upgraded service will also offer single-line service, and removal of party lines for all Bell customers

who wish it by the end of 2001.

The increased cost for residential customers will average \$2.57 per month. Business customers will not be affected with a rate increase.

Robert Smith, Business Development Officer with the Town of Milton, explained that the exchanges represent service calling areas within the Bell system. Unfortunately, many of the exchanges actually closer to Milton such as Clarkson, Brampton and Port Credit do not fall into these calling areas and were not included in the CRTC application. Smith further explained that he is waiting for clarification, but it is possible that the Campbellville exchange of 854 may actually connect tool-free with more numbers than the Milton exchanges.

Unfortunately, some of the closet exchanges - indeed some within Milton's borders - are not included in the expansion because they fall outside the current CRTC application.

"Our role as a Town was simply to support Bell Canada's application before the CRTC," Smith said. "However, in our address to the CRTC, I did use the opportunity to point out another major concern with service in our area. More than a few eyebrows were raised when I pointed out that a good number of our rural residents could not even call Town Hall without long distance charges."

Smith added that this is one area that the Business Development Office is working on to find a solution. Milton is also looking for ways to upgrade the infrastructure within the system to provide more efficient modem access for computers.

In a survey conducted two years ago, more than 200 Milton business people rated the ability to make toll-free local calls into the Greater Toronto Area more significant than property taxes and utility costs, according to Smith. This upgrade will greatly enhance the ability for Milton businesses to compete in the GTA.

Hildebrand resurrects Life of David

BY DONNA DANIELLI
CAMPBELLVILLE & AREA

Recently, an audience at St. Paul's United Church in Milton was entertained with over an hour of passion, rage, weeping, laughing, frustration and worship!

Jason Hildebrand, a multi-talented former resident of Campbellville, marked Milton as a tour stop for his one-man theatrical presentation "Life of David". His show, which he also wrote, spans the years of the biblical David's life from the epic battle with Goliath to his death.

It was in many ways a homecoming for Jason as so many of his roots are in this area. Hildebrand's family moved to Campbellville while he was in grade five and have remained in the area ever since. He traces many of his acting ambitions back to the school plays he was in while attending Milton District High School. His first paying part came in grade ten when he auditioned for and gained a part with the Mississauga City Centre Opera Company.

After high school, Hildebrand spent a year at the Canadian Bible College before being one of only 19 second-year students accepted into the performing arts program at York

University. His career has been filled with many roles, but it's the role of David which remains close to his heart as it is his faith that drives him.

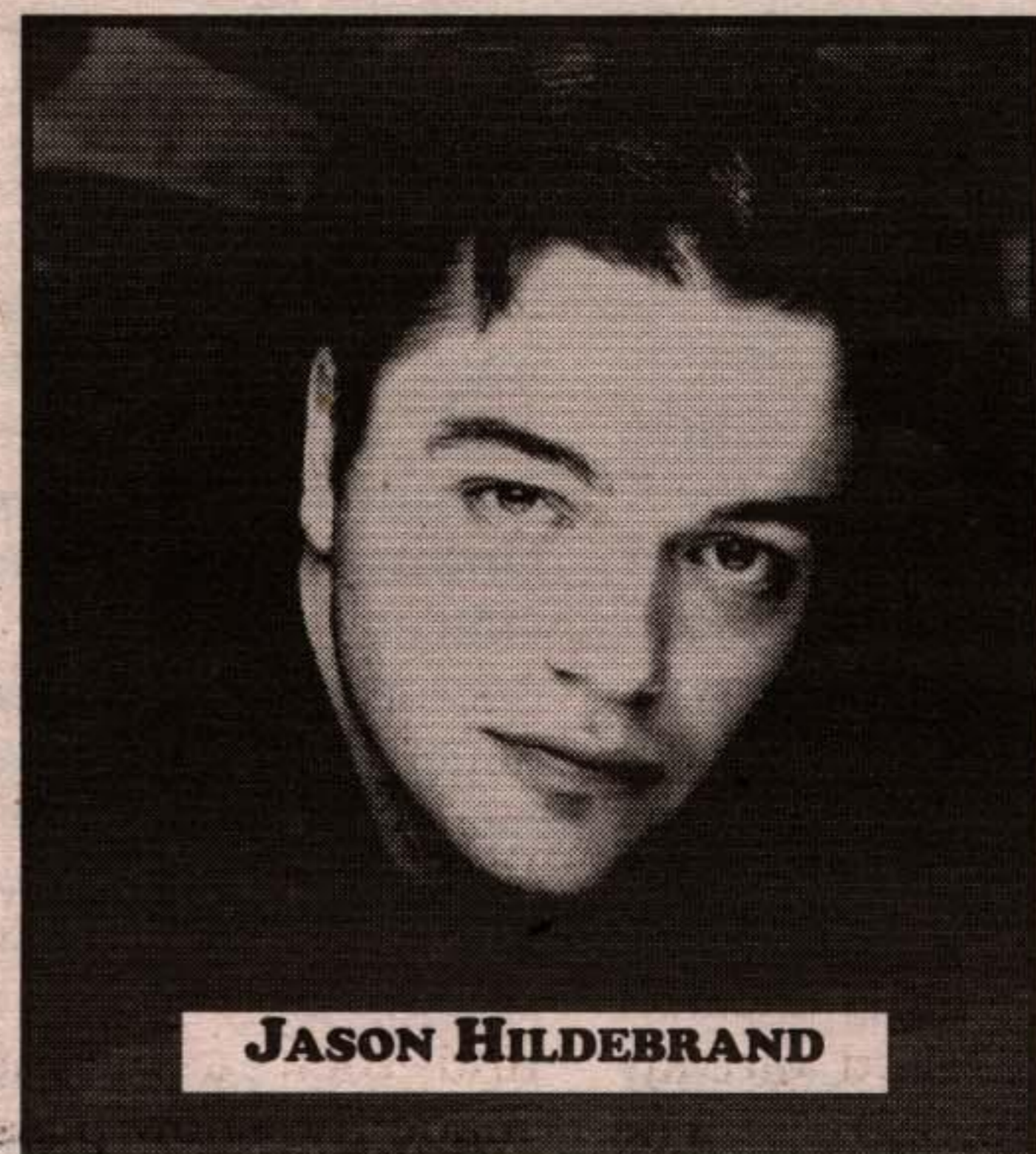
"The source of my inspiration is God," Hildebrand declares. "I draw on his strength for my work and that's what gives it depth. The drama of making people live things brings truth out more than just speaking. My goal is to allow people to experience the Scriptures like they never have before."

He chose David as his subject because of the humanity of the man. "David is an example of how people don't have to be perfect for their lives to have meaning."

Hildebrand plans to take "Life of David" next to Ottawa and Halifax before

embarking on a tour of western Canada. "Life of David" is a seventy minute show with at least 16 different characters, and features accents ranging from French Canadian to Southern US. Hildebrand seems to glide from one character to the next seamlessly. His director, Thomas Carson, also directed him in Wind of the Willows, a play nominated for a Dora award.

Though "Life of David" will take Jason all over the country, it can be assured that he and his wife Sara will carry a part of Halton with them, returning as often as possible to visit his parents, who now live in Kilbride. And maybe, if we're very lucky, Jason will grace us with a presentation of his outstanding one man show, "Life of David" once more.



JASON HILDEBRAND