

Donna Danielli's "Just Kidding Around"



A whirl of autumn events

Autumn is always a busy time of the year, what with getting the kids ready to go back to school and catching up on all the housework ignored all summer (playing with my kids always takes precedence over housework which would explain the huge population of dust bunnies in my house). There's also all the fall fairs and the Steam Era to attend. Still, if you find there's still some time on your hands (and dust bunnies to ignore), something different for the kids might be one or more of the following:

The Town of Milton offers a number of options for kids of all ages. "Let's Create Together" is designed for kids 18 months to three years and an accompanying adult. This class, providing songs, crafts, individual and group play, runs Thursday from 10:00-11:30, October 19 to December 14 at the Milton Leisure Centre. Cost is \$85. "Hoops" is a new program for 13 to 17 year olds. This monitored drop-in class provides an opportunity to play "pick up" basketball and runs Tuesdays, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Milton Leisure Centre at a cost of \$3 per day. "Creative Hands," another new program at the Milton Leisure Centre, is for eight to ten-year-olds interested in hands-on activities. Each week's theme will have a choice of two crafts and this class runs Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 September 22 to November 17. Information on all of the above programs is available by calling 878-7211. Also new this year at the Leisure Centre is "Bead Weaving" for kids 12 and older. Create beautiful heirloom beaded jewellery and bags using a variety of stitches and beads while employing weaving techniques on a bead loom. For details call program supervisor Tammy Corless at 875-1681.

The Town of Halton Hills also offers some fun things for the kids to do. Toilet trained three to five-year-olds are invited to join the "Saturday Peanut Club" for an exciting array of dramatic play, creative crafts, music stories, puppets, songs and games. This program runs at Ecole Sacre Couer School from Sept. 25 to Nov. 20 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$70. As well a variety of swimming programs at all levels begin on September 20. Call 905-873-2601, ext 275 for more information.

Sunday, September 12 is "Anne of Green Gables" day at Westfield on Regional Road 552 in Flamborough. Visitors can tour actual movie locations, participate in an Anne look-a-like contest and imagine themselves in Avonlea. Westfield was location of several scenes of the "Anne of Green Gables" and "Road to Avonlea" productions. More information and directions are available by calling 519-621-8851 or 1-888-319-4722.

Have questions about your newborn to five-year-old child's development, behaviour, speech/language or hearing and don't know where to turn? Acton Parent-Child Centre is holding a Developmental Early Identification and Prevention (DEIP) clinic Friday September 24 from 9:30-11:30. Services provided on first come first served basis. Call Katherine at 1-905-873-6502.

Milton Community Resource Centre starts it's Parent/Caregiver Workshops in September. Of special interest is "Infant Child CPR," a three week course held September 14, 21, and 28 and taught by St. John's Ambulance. The course cost is \$30 with childcare available at an additional cost. Also offered is "Winning at Parenting," a four week class running Wednesdays from Sept. 8-29, 7-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$40. For information, call Kathy Percival at 905-876-1244, ext 12.

Registration for Girl Guides of Canada in Georgetown will be held Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. The Georgetown East District registration will be at Centennial Middle School, 233 Delrex Blvd. and Silvercreek District Registration for new members only will be at St. John's United Church, Guelph St., Georgetown. For more information, call Lynn Clark, Georgetown East Commissioner at 905-877-1726 or Crys Duopagne, Silvercreek Commissioner at 905-877-9664. Milton Girl Guide registration takes place at the Milton Mall on Friday, August 27 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and on Saturday August 28 from 10:00-4:00.

Celebrate an Indian Summer Festival at Crawford Lake on September 12 from 10-4. Special activities planned include native arts and crafts, wagon rides and beadmaking. There will also be a discovery hunt with prizes, corn husk doll making, nature's tea and more. Information is available by calling 854-0234.

Mountsberg hosts it's annual "Strictly For The Birds Trail Run" on September 26 from 8:30-3:30. Bring the whole family out for a 1k walk, dawdle or stroll, a 2k junior fun run or a 10k trail run. The run takes place at Mountsberg Conservation Area through field, meadow and forest and also includes a BBQ lunch, live birds of prey, videos and displays. Call 905-336-1158 for a registration form.

That's it for me for another month. With events like these, I can think my dust bunnies can breathe a sigh of relief. I don't think I'll be getting around to them any time soon.

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FINIALS - Providing that finishing touch

BY DONNA DANIELLI THE COMPASS

A "finial" is a finishing touch on a piece of architecture. It's also a perfect name for Susanne Balleto's new store in the heart of Milton.

"Finials," located in Towne Square at 221 Main Street East, is a place where casual elegance meets country charm. An eclectic mix of Roger's chocolates, Burt's Bees products, candles, home and garden accessories, it's an ideal place to shop for the perfect gift for a new baby or treasured friend.

A love of decorating led Susanne to her new business. "I get the best of both worlds. I get to build it, display it and then sell it." With new stock arriving weekly, Susanne is busy changing her displays, although she admits that some of her favourite things are

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hard to part with. "Finials" also proudly displays and sells original artwork by local artisan Eugene Coady. His variety of landscapes and portraits (the whimsical dog in Elizabethan garb was my favourite), on display are fair representation of his work.

Susanne is a longtime resident of Milton, whose previous pastimes included the ongoing renovations of her century home and supporting and working with her husband Norman's company, K.C.F. Married for 28 years, they have two children, 26-year-old daughter Morgan and their 20-year-old son Nick.

Susanne's pleasure at being a businesswoman in Milton is apparent. "I love that I can walk to work. Everyone who's come into the store

> is so upbeat and wants to chat. It's been great." Susanne takes the time and trouble to speak with each of her customers - a

pleasant change from a fast paced world of malls.

She even cares for the canines in the neighbourhood. Every day, a beautifully designed framework supports bowls of fresh water for dogs to help themselves - greatly appreciated by their owners out for a walk on a hot summer day. Besides keeping her doors open six days a week, Susanne is seeking new ways to reach out to the community. "Finials" will host an open house on Sept 10th from 9 to 11 a.m. "Mothers who find their houses a little empty with the kids back in school are welcome to drop by for a coffee, a croissant and a browse."

As well, Susanne has arranged for an "Artist's Way Workshop" designed to enhance and promote creativity. This 12 week course begins October 6th and runs at "Finials" from 7:30-9:30. For more information call "Finials" at 905-693-9796.

JUST A SCRIBBL'N

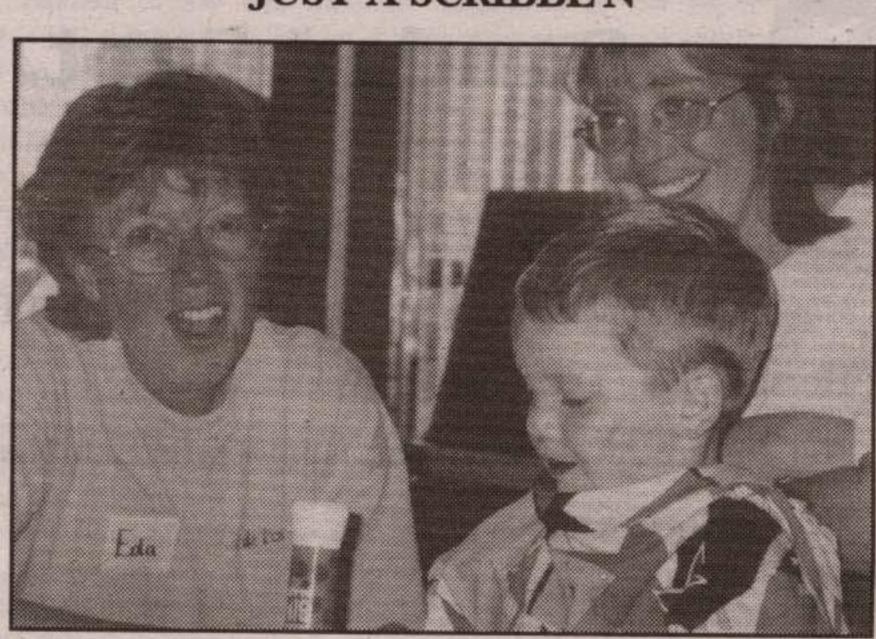


PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

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Ryan Fjell practices his writing and artistic skills at the Scribbles Signup Night and Open House on August 18th. The Scribbles Nursery School is a program offered at Kidz Korner in Milton for youngsters two-and-a-half to five years old, featuring creative, educational, and "fun" experiences, ensuring a child's first school experience is a positive one. Pictured with Ryan are left, Miss Eda, owner of Kidz Korner on Nipissing Rd., Milton, and Ryan's mom, Sherry Fjell, on his right.