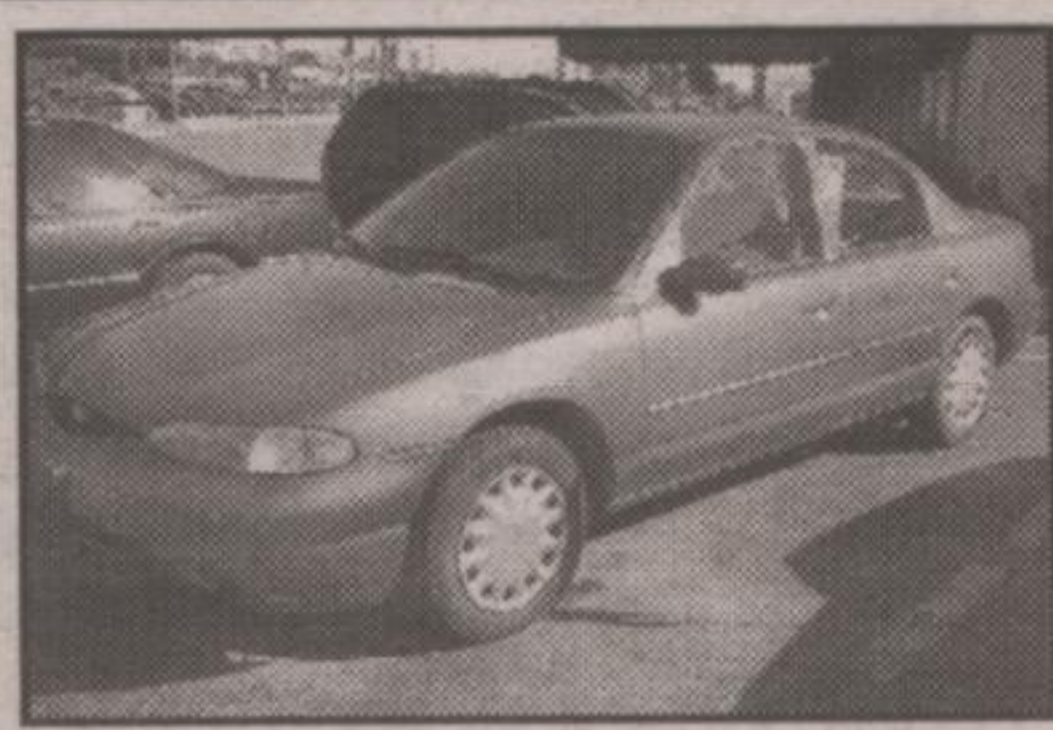


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Brookville Bengals Beat



BY PAULA GOMES
THE COMPASS

Students and staff at Brookville Public School are settling into their new school routine. Our Primary and Junior classes were reorganized during the second week of school, due to higher enrollment and above average class sizes. By adding another Grade Four class, class sizes were also lowered in Grades Two, Three and Four. Mr. Nodwell would like to personally thank the children, staff and parents for their patience and flexibility.

We would like to extend a big Brookville welcome to our new staff. Mrs. Wendy Webber will be our new Teacher Librarian, and will also work at J.M. Denyes in the same role. Mrs. Jill Burton will be teaching Grade Seven and Eight Language Arts. She taught at E.J. James Public School last year in Oakville. Miss Ivana Domenich will be teaching Core French to our Grades Six, Seven and Eight students. Miss Rae-Anne Lauzon will be our new Kindergarten teacher, moving from her Special Education role last year.

Considerable improvements were made to the school over the summer. A new fence was installed at the south end of the school. This will give our younger students a safe place to play, separating the play area from the parking lot. A cistern was installed in our courtyard, and will ensure our water supply is protected. Two volleyball standards have also been added to our sand pit. Most recently, the front entrance has been improved, with the addition of a handicapped ramp, and new cement and pressure treated beams.

Extra-curricular activities are already underway at Brookville School. The Cross-Country teams have been busy preparing for the North Area Cross Country Meet on Monday, October 2, at Sherwood Forest Park in Burlington. Special thanks to Miss Lauzon and Miss Nalywajko for coaching the teams. As well, students have been trying out for the Boys and Girls Softball teams. The students and parents appreciate the extra effort put forward by the staff in helping with these activities.

The Halton Board of Education has approved a plan to bring Junior Kindergarten back to Halton. Brookville Public School will be providing Junior Kindergarten beginning in September 2001. The staff will be busy this year preparing and planning for this new addition to the school program.

The annual Terry Fox Run/Walk was held on Friday, September 15. The goal for each student was to walk or run around the school course the same number of times as his or her grade level. The entire school was involved, even the new Kindergarten children, on their first day of school! To date over \$1,000 has been collected for the Canadian Cancer Society. Congratulations to the staff and students, and a special thanks to all of the parent volunteers.

The annual Meet the Teacher night was held on Wednesday, September 20. Parents, staff and students enjoyed pizza and a cold drink at the start of the evening. The staff and School Council members were then introduced. Later, parents and children were given an opportunity to visit classes and meet the teachers. As always, this was a great opportunity to meet the new and returning staff at the school in a casual setting.

The first Nassagaweya Community School Council (NCSC) meeting was held September 11, 2000. The executive for the 2000/2001 school year is as follows: Melanie Moynihan and Tracy Lamb, co-chairs; Cynthia Loeprich, Treasurer; Stephanie Kimmerer, secretary. The NCSC meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the Learning Resource Centre at the School. All parents are invited to attend!

CD release from Father Mark

BY DONNA DANIELLI
THE COMPASS

If you can measure the wealth of a man by the number of friends he can claim, Father Mark Curtis must feel like the richest man in the world. More than 200 people turned out at Granite Ridge Golf Club on September 10 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his fundraising music and recording career as well as the national launch of his 12th recording *The Bridge To Us All*. A portion of the proceeds from his new album will support the Rose Cherry Home.

Hosted by Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, the evening began with Father Mark's signature song "You Are A Gift To Me." The

long list of speakers eager to laud Canada's Singing Priest included Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline, Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, Donna Coulter, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandy Martin, Albert Casson, as well as numerous representatives from various charity organizations and towns in which Father Mark has sung. The Honourable Julien Reed, MP for Halton, read greetings to Father Mark from Prime Minister Jean Chretien that thanked him for the over \$1 million he's raised for charities over the years.

Messages of goodwill read by Mayor Krantz had been sent by Heritage Minister Sheila Copps, Premier Mike Harris, Bruce Hood and Don Cherry. Superior Court Justice James Clarke sent congratulations, adding, "Songs and poetry are highways to the spirit and you have lifted us all." Father Mark's brother Mike spoke of their family's background and the five brothers. He pointed out that although all the brothers have their own gifts, "Mark's gift of music blesses him with the ability to teach, to be creative and to build hope."

Many songs were performed through the evening, each warmly received by the audience. Father Mark was clearly overwhelmed by the outpouring of goodwill.

"I was beginning to think I had died, with all the nice things people were saying about me. I was looking for the candles."

He spoke warmly of the many people in Milton he admires - Scott Early, Martha Gleeson, and Glen Soderholm to name just a few. Then he turned his eyes on his wife Rita Albin-Curtis saying "This gift is God's gift; it's not mine. When God calls, you answer. My priesthood is a special gift, my music is a special gift, but the most special gift I have been given is my wife Rita. I wouldn't write the love songs I do, if not for Rita."

The evening concluded with the new song "My Little Town," a song resident Donna Coulter referred to as "a gift to Milton."

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