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A Few Good Men

Brookville Men's Masters Slo-Pitch League

No Experience Required

Must be 35 or older as of December 31st, 2001

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REGISTRATION CONTACTS

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Ron Cross of Orion Drums will offer participants a hands-on experience with a variety of drums.

\$25
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2-5 p.m.
St. John's Anglican Church, Rockwood

To register call **Bonnie 837-1300**

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March is Kidney Month

by Donna Danielli
The Compass

Answering the knock on your door this month just might save someone's life.

March is designated Kidney Month and canvassers will be going door-to door throughout Milton and Halton Hills in the hopes of raising funds for the Kidney Association. Kidney disease is ranked as the sixth most common cause of death among Canadians.

According to Kathryn Wade, volunteer president of the Foundation in Central Ontario "Daily, 10 people learn that they have kidney disease. The numbers will grow as baby boomers age".

Founded in 1964, this national, volunteer organization funds kidney-related research, provides services for the special needs of kidney patients and their families,

advocates for access to high quality health care and actively promotes awareness of, and commitment to, organ donation. The Kidney Foundation has invested over \$57 million over the past 35 years into kidney research, all of which has come from donations from individuals and organizations.

"We rely on the generosity of the public both for funds and as volunteer canvassers," says Wade.

Canvassing in the rural area can be a little tricky admits Lisa Buck, area coordinator. She encourages anyone who'd like to help with fundraising in the rural area contact her for a "Friends and Family Kit", which can be used to canvass the people they are in regular contact with instead of going door-to-door.

Businesses are encouraged to host "Community Support Days", either as "Dress Down Days" or "Button Days" where employees pay a sum to wear casual clothes or a Kidney Foundation Button with all proceeds going to the Kidney Foundation. Coin collection boxes are also available upon request by businesses. Every penny adds up when everyone works together.

Anyone interested in canvassing, either door-to door or with a "Friends and Family Kit", or with inquiries on how their business can get involved, or simply to make a donation, can call Lisa Buck at 905-877-4081.

And when a Kidney Foundation volunteer knocks on your door this month, please make your donation a generous one.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

The Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society regular meeting will be held at Chinguacousy Branch Library, lower level, 150 Central Park Dr. Bramalea on Sunday March 25, 2001 at 2 p.m. The guest speaker will be David Morris with the topic, "Portraying Tecumseh." Visitors are welcome.

As well, the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society presents a Colloquium Saturday, April 21 at Maple Grove United Church, Oakville. The theme is "Crossings: Borders & Oceans," running from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be great speakers and many vendors - something for everyone. The cost is \$30. Pre-registration by April 1 includes lunch. For more information contact Dorothy Kew (905) 631-9060, Jane Watt (905) 813-7977 (email jwatt@ica.net) or visit <http://www.hhpl.on.ca/signs/ogshp/ogshp.htm>

Halton Police receive provincial funding for extra officers

Special to The Compass

Ted Chudleigh, MPP Halton, has presented Halton Region Police Chief Algar with the first installment of a provincial grant to be used to cover the costs of hiring additional front line officers. The ceremony took place at the Milton Police Station on Child's Drive at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2001.

The \$455,552 grant covers the time period April 1 to September 30, 2001.

"With these funds the Mike Harris government is fulfilling its promise to deliver more front-line police officers to communities like ours," said Chudleigh. "These new officers have made our community a better place to live, work and raise a family."

Under the hiring program, Community Policing Partnerships, the provincial government provides matching funds for up to 50 per cent of salary related costs to a maximum of \$30,000 per year for newly hired officers. These officers must represent a net addition to the strength of a police service.

"Safe, productive communities are the keys to a prosperous Ontario," said former Solicitor General David Tsubouchi. "The front-line officers hired through this permanent program will boost the police presence across the province, reduce crime and keep our streets and communities safe."

Chudleigh added that Premier Harris promised 1,000 new officers across the province and he delivered with the 1,000 officer hired under the program in November, 2000.

Originally the Community Policing Partnerships program was a five year initiative to help get more front-line officers on the streets of Ontario towns and cities. However, given the success of the program the provincial government has annualized the program and increased the funding to \$35 million per year.

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Percy W. Merry News

by Kim Pickering
The Compass

The Nature Nuts had a used stuffed animal sale on Wednesday, February 14th. Percy Merry's new environmental club raised \$125 to adopt two polar bears and two whales, as well as donated \$15 to help the cleanup effort on the Cuban Coast Wildlife Project.

Our annual winter playday was held on the afternoon of Monday, February 19th. The whole school was involved in outdoor activities in mixed grade teams. The weather was sunny but cool. The Home and school provided hot chocolate to warm up the participants. A great day was had by all.

The boys and girls in the 4/5 and the 5/6 classes have enjoyed several cross-coun-

try outings this winter season. This outdoor fitness activity is lots of fun and lots of exercise.

The All-Star Reading Program started the first week of February. This is a great way to support beginning readers in a comfortable one-on-one situation with a Volunteer Adult Reading Coach.

Since November, the Grade 5/6's have been paired up every Friday with the Kindergartens. The 5/6's bring their Reading Buddy books to the kindergarten room. The books are filled with lots of activities for the kindergartens to do. They are all having fun and learning at the same time.