

Think before you drink

By DONNA DANIELLI

We all know the importance of drinking water daily for good health but the shadow of the Walkerton water tragedy is enough to make people a little uneasy about the water they drink.

"You're better off drinking bottled water and knowing you're safe," says owner of Milton's Classic Coolers, Dwight Colpitts. "We're trying to emphasize the quality of the water and the source of our water which is natural spring water that is tested and monitored regularly."

Classic Coolers, at 723 Main Street provides bottled water, delivery and service to the entire Halton area as well as parts of Guelph and Mississauga.

They offer a variety of coolers providing fresh hot and/or cold water for rental or purchase. An initial cooler set up also includes three free bottles of water.

The most common size of bottle delivered by Classic Coolers is the 18.9 litre bottle but bottles of approximately half that size are available for seniors or anyone with a back problem who might have difficulty changing a larger bottle.

Bottled water has many advantages over tap water filtered through a home system.

"If you're just filtering tap water, it's still not being monitored on a regular basis," says Mr. Colpitts. "Many people forget to change the filter as regularly as it needs to be and then you're filtering water through an unclean filter."

Safety aside, many people come back to Classic Coolers for the freshest cleanest tasting water they can get.

"It's a better quality water," explains Mr. Colpitts. "There's a huge difference in the taste."

A matter of speaking

By KIM PICKERING

The talent of Halton students really shone through at the 2nd North Halton Speech Competition on May 7, 2002 at Percy W. Merry Public School.

This competition was open to all students in North Halton and received a total of 16 participants with every one providing a colourful and informative speech.

The speech competition has been active in Oakville for the last 17 years and has now started in Burlington also. Percy W. Merry teacher Robin Coverdale is the driving force behind this competition in Halton. He feels that it is an important life skill for all students.

Grade Four Percy Merry student Steven Robillard, spoke on King Tut. His classmate Lyndsay Goodenough gave an exciting account of Amelia Earhart's last flight.

Three judges from the Trafalgar Toastmasters Association

and Ethel Gardiner, Chair of the Halton District School Board Trustees, Ericka Andrew, a North Halton School Board Trustee and Al Greyson, Superintendent of Education Services for the Halton School Board judged the interesting speeches.

The Junior winner was W.I. Dick student Pritima Naikwadi. Her winning speech was on "Believe it or Not". Kyle McKenzie was the Intermediate winner. The student from Stewarttown P.S. confidently spoke on "What's that smell?". Kyle won last year, also. The winners were awarded trophies and all the speech participants received a book of their choice from the Teame Credit Union.

Pritima and Kyle have been invited to present their speeches at the Halton District School Board meeting on Wednesday, June 5.

An art with endurance

By DEBORAH QUAILE

No one would have suspected her beginnings as a machinist in her father's tool and die shop would blossom into something far more creative. But they did.

Limehouse resident Doris Treleven, formerly of Georgetown, decided to explore different aspects of the metal industry, studying the ISO 9000 program and becoming certified for pressure vessel welding (used, for example, on railway tank cars).

When her hands itched to do something more creative, she began producing decorative items, but "you can only give so many things away to friends," so she started her own business to further sales prospects.

That creative urge and love of both nature and gardening came to the forefront, and Ms. Treleven began designing unique metal ornaments, sculptures, furnishings and more.

Within the span of two years, she's been featured on television shows, and sold works of art to restaurants, hotels, and private estates across Canada, the USA, Europe and Asia.

"I like doing garden art," she comments. "Bringing your home out to the garden is more interesting - it's an extension of the home. Metal is very long lasting, unlike plastic or some other thin materials. The things I make are heavy-duty, and the steel seals itself."

Her lifetime steel collection is

designed to last just that long. It uses modern steel making technologies, giving it long-term corrosion resistance four times greater than that of plain carbon steel. Even unpainted and exposed to the elements, the artwork will develop a tight protective oxide (rust) film similar to that of many bridges. As well as steel and stainless steel, Ms. Treleven works with copper, bronze and aluminum.

Perhaps the most interesting feature is the whimsy and sheer distinctiveness of her work. There are "paws" tables with doggy feet and pawprint cutouts on the surface. Trellises, benches, railings and grates serve useful purposes but they do it with panache. Flowers and butterflies are formed on metal rods to float over the tops of gardens as they wave in the wind. Ms. Treleven has a good supply of stock for large and small shows that she attends all year long, such as *One of a Kind*, *Signatures*, and *Canada Blooms*.

Her daughter and son often

assist, and she has entertained Brownies and her daughter's Grade 2 class in the studio.

"I encourage them to help out and participate. I want them to think about (a wide range of) careers," she says.

Last season she was called to do a half-hour segment on Mag Ruffman's show, *Anything I Can Do*. Ms. Ruffman even wrote a column in *The Toronto Sun* regarding the fascinating work produced at Metalscape.

Prices for objects range from \$10 for mini butterflies to thousands of dollars for large custom work. Due to the nature of custom art, Ms. Treleven adds, most pieces vary slightly and quantities may be limited.

"I just love (my ideas) - I see metal and it inspires me to make something out of it."

Visitors to Doris Treleven's Metalscapes studio can come by chance or appointment. The studio is located at 13016 5th Line, south of Highway 7. Call 519-853-9743.

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