

COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE KELLY MACINTYRE

By DONNA DANIELLI

Follow the trail of music and it will inevitably lead you to Kelly MacIntyre.

A Campbellville resident for the last nine years, Mrs. MacIntyre can most often be seen behind the scenes, and behind the piano, at almost all Brookville Public School events. From the Winter Fantasy and the Candlelight Christmas Carolling to the Spring Fair and countless assemblies, it is Mrs. MacIntyre who spends hours working with students on original compositions and classic favourites.

"It's a chance to have fun with the kids. Some of them are phenomenally creative and talented and that's amazing to be able to work with," explains Mrs. MacIntyre.

In addition to being Brookville School's main musician, Mrs. MacIntyre also volunteers in two classrooms, coaches the primary choir, is an active participant in the Friendship Program, as well as designing, creating and maintain-

ing the Memorial Garden in the front of the school.

Next she will undertake the planting of gardens within the courtyard of the school.

"I started out wanting to put hanging baskets in the empty pots on either side of the front door and then it snowballed into much more," Mrs. MacIntyre said with a laugh. The events of September 11 spurred her into putting even more time and energy into decorating the school to create a haven for students to come to.

"In the time of sadness following 9-11, there was a need to focus on something positive," she says. "The kids needed a place to go to that was safe and pretty, and parents and teachers needed an activity that gave them a sense of being able to do something positive in the face of all this tragedy."

With that in mind, and the overwhelming positive reaction of the students to the Christmas display Mrs. MacIntyre and her volun-



Kelly MacIntyre

teers put together, she approached Brookville Principal Rick Nodwell with the idea of a Memorial Garden.

"There was about \$500 left in the kitty from the money raised for the ceremony students held, releasing balloons into the air on the day of Sarah's funeral and Rick agreed that the garden would be a good way to spend that money. Once we got started though, everyone pitched in.

"Now the kids are all getting

involved from the little kindergartners to the great big grade eights, holding these little plants as delicately as if they're holding newborn babies."

Mrs. MacIntyre will now spend two or three days a week maintaining the gardens as well the full day each week she spends volunteering in the school. The primary classes will help her with the care of the goldfish in the garden's waterfall/pond and she also plans to find a way for each grade to become involved in the gardens in the courtyard.

When not volunteering at Brookville School, or spending time with husband Duncan and sons Martin, Jordan and Austin, you can find Mrs. MacIntyre performing at the Country Laine Cafe on Saturday nights from 7 - 9 p.m.

"It's a lot of fun and a very relaxed atmosphere," says Mrs. MacIntyre, who isn't shy about inviting diners to sing with her. Country Laine Cafe also proudly

displays many of her paintings that are available for sale.

Mrs. MacIntyre, who has been playing piano since the age of 11 and writing her own songs since 14, has performed in a variety of venues around the world including the Deerpark Inn, the Boulevard Club, and Geneva, Switzerland. Next Christmas will see the release of her latest CD containing a mix of traditional Christmas songs as well as original music written by Mrs. MacIntyre.

No matter how busy she becomes, you can expect to see Kelly MacIntyre remain actively involved in Brookville Public School.

"It always starts as a little vision, and then people start becoming a part of what you're doing," she says. "At the end of the day, you see the input of the community, the parents and children, and you walk away with a sense of warmth and of pride."

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