

## COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE: Beverlee Hoy

BY DONNA DANIELLI

In the midst of media stories about increasing rates of youth violence and delinquency, the Ontario Community Newspaper Association offers a different perspective with its Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

Nominated for this prestigious award is ten-year-old Beverlee Hoy of Campbellville. Two years ago, when firefighters came to her house as part of a door-to-door food drive, Beverlee noticed how few houses there were on her street and she wondered if the firefighters would be able to collect enough food. Mom (Bonnie Hoy) remembers, "She asked me why they didn't canvass at apartment buildings where they'd be able to connect with a lot more people." Bonnie looked into Beverlee's idea and discovered that canvassing in an apartment building is not allowed without the owner's permission. "Most people in apartments don't know who the owner of their building is, and it's never occurred to the building owners to take on this kind of canvassing," explains Bonnie. "The most shocking thing for me is that I've worked in this industry for 20 years and it never occurred to me. Beverlee was only eight years old and it took a child of that age to come up with something none of the rest of us did. It just goes to show that we should listen more to our children."

Beverlee was in a unique situation. She had been diagnosed with alopecia, extreme hair loss, at the age of 20 months. Beverlee knew that strangers seeing her with only a bandanna on her head were apt to jump to conclusions about the cause of her hair loss. However, Beverlee put aside her shy nature and self-conscious concerns about her appearance, and she approached the Greater Toronto Apartment Association and the Fair Rental Policy Organization with the idea of a food drive in Ontario's apartment buildings. Both organizations immediately supported the idea.

On November 26, 2002, Beverlee, her mom and 3,000 volunteers from Home Depot and the Salvation Army took part in Ontario's first apartment building food drive. Beverlee chose to canvass apartment buildings on Jane and Wilson Streets in Toronto. "That's one of Toronto's lower income areas, and yet we had eleven shopping carts worth of food donated," explains Bonnie. "People kept trying to give me money for the poor, and a lot of them gave me new toys to donate too," says Beverlee. "It was really exciting and I was surprised to see all that food."

Beverlee and Bonnie far surpassed their goal of 75,000 pounds of food; in just three hours, 145,000 pounds of food was collected. Beverlee was publicly commended in the House of Commons on November 27th for her efforts. Letters from the Greater Toronto Apartment Association, the North York Harvest Food Bank, the Fair Rental Policy Organization and the Salvation Army were forwarded to the Ontario Community Newspaper Association. As a result, Beverlee earned the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year nomination.

"For her sake, I hope she wins the award," says Bonnie. "To this day, I don't think she realizes the extent of what she's done. She's fed a lot of hungry people."

Thrilled as she is about the nomination, Beverlee has her eye on next year's drive. "I hope that it gets bigger and better every year. I'd like to try to get double the amount of food then."

Beverlee won't know the results of the competition until mid-February. Even if another child were chosen as Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year, The North Halton Compass would like Beverlee Hoy to know that she's a winner, not only in our eyes, but also in the eyes of her entire community. Congratulations and thank you, Beverlee, from all of us.




Bonnie and Beverlee Hoy

PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

## Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee

Residents with concerns about safety and quality of life issues in rural Milton are invited to join the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee. The third Monday of each month, this group assembles in the boardroom of the Nassagaweya Community Centre in Brookville at 10:00 a.m. Currently there are 13 members but membership is not closed: residents are encouraged to join the group once, occasionally or on a regular basis. The NCCC serves as a liaison between all levels of government, social service groups and the police. Residents with concerns about issues such as how tax dollars are being used, fire and ambulance service, road maintenance, speeding, garbage on the roadsides, etc. would do well to attend an NCCC meeting. Also it is a good way to find out what's new in the rural community, and to meet an interesting and fun group of people. For more information please call Mike West at 519-853-2755.



# B.M.B.A.

## SPRING REGISTRATION

*It's that time of year again!*

**Brookville Minor Baseball Association will be holding its spring  
Registration on Saturday March 1 and March 22, 2003 at  
Nassagaweya Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
\$100 per child  
Special family rates apply (Please return all uniforms)**

# Martindale

## GARDENS

*The HEART of Milton*

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Milton Millennium  
Community Residences



*Artist's rendering of the planned MMCR facility, MARTINDALE GARDENS, at 45 Martin Street opposite the Mill Pond.*


### *Pssst..... Special Someone!*

As construction continues on Martindale Gardens, Milton's only Assisted Living residence, maybe you or a loved one is considering it as a lifestyle option at some point in the future. If so, may we suggest that you consider guaranteeing first availability of a suite in the Martindale Gardens upon the Grand Opening in Summer 2003 or when desired at some later date.

This can be done through a Right To Occupy reservation (RTO). The RTO ensures "front of the line" status when residence in Martindale Gardens is desired. The future resident secures this status by placing a deposit, in a trust account, with Martindale Gardens. This deposit attracts interest at rate equal to or greater than that offered by a Canada Savings Bond. For 2003 these deposits will yield 4.00% interest. Deposits are refunded within six months following cessation of residence in Martindale Gardens. For complete details and a copy of the Right to Occupy Reservation Agreement please contact the Martindale Gardens office, phone (905) 693-8592. A staff member will be happy to help you.

Currently over 50 per cent of the 76 suites in Martindale Gardens are spoken for. We expect that upon or soon after the Summer 2003 opening all units will be occupied. Please don't delay in investigating a RTO at Martindale Gardens.


Martindale Gardens is a project of Milton Millennium Community Residences, a charitable organization founded and operated by concerned volunteers from Milton and surrounding areas. Martindale Gardens is located in the heart of Milton on Martin Street just north of Main Street, and across from the Mill Pond.



Visit us at richardsonchev@gmcanada.com

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