Reminiscing debut

Father Mark Curtis in concert

STORY AND PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

hey came from Milton, Guelph, Kitchener and Hamilton. They even travelled from such far off locales as Nova Scotia, New York and Australia and they came with one purpose in mind, to celebrate the release of Father Mark Curtis' latest CD, Reminiscing.

Long known for his fundraising efforts, the debut of Father Mark's CD was at a concert that also served as a fundraiser for St. Pauls Church in Milton. As well, proceeds from Reminiscing will be donated to Rose Cherry's Home for Kids.

Anyone expecting an evening of reverent, spiritual hymns was pleasantly surprised by Curtis' opening number, Daydream Believer, a ditty made famous by Davey Jones and later revived as part of the soundtrack for the movie Shrek. This crowd favourite set the pace for an evening of toe tapping, hand clapping fun as the audience enthusiastically applauded.

The evening was an intriguing mix of old and new Curtis hits, with some contemporary non-secular hits thrown in for good measure. He swung into a high-energy rendition of *Bringing in the Sheaves* from his new album, followed by such crowd favourites as *The Angels Still Sing* and *Just A Closer Walk with Thee.* "These old beautiful songs are sung like dirges sometimes," said Father Curtis. "They deserve more life."

Sprinkled liberally with personal anecdotes and the occasional slightly racey joke, Father Curtis provided his audience an evening that gave them a lump in their throats one moment, and left them rolling in the aisles with laughter the next. There wasn't a dry eye in the house as he gave the crowd a sneak peek into his next album, Love Remembers When, a haunting song of the love shared between Annie and James for over forty years before James loses his memory to Alzheimers. Curtis didn't leave his fans with that catch in their throats for too long, as he quickly picked up the pace with another song he plans to record for his next album, an up tempo rocking version of This Is the Day.

The wildly enthusiastic crowd demanded an encore, and Curtis obliged, lifting his mighty voice to fill the rafters with his rendition of *Bring Him Home* from the hit musical *Les Miserables*. He concluded the concert with a song he wrote especially for Milton, *My Little Town* and a standing ovation from a packed house of his fans.

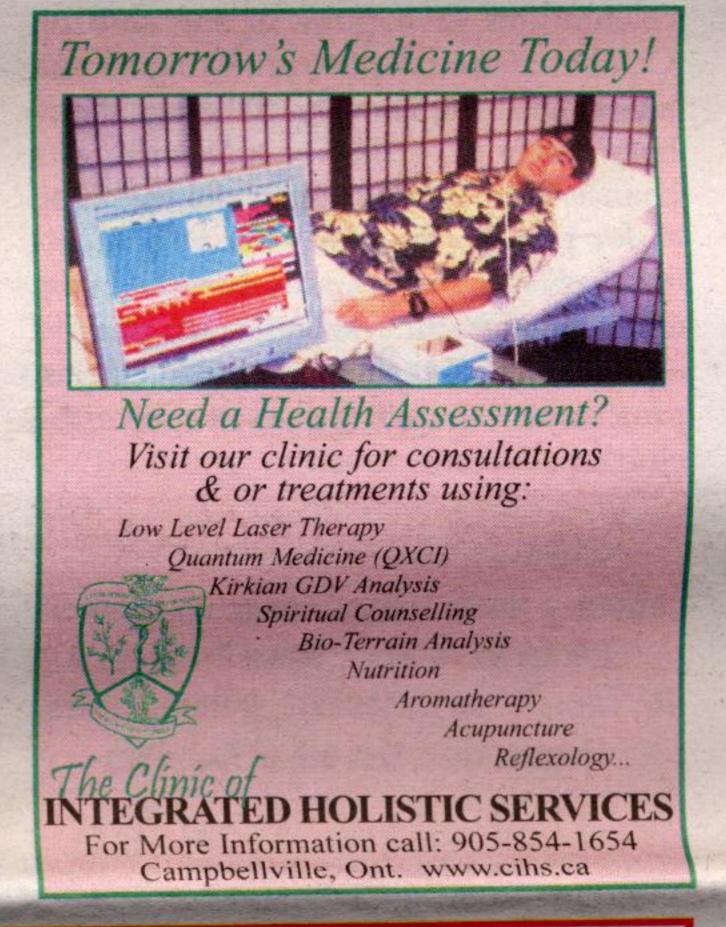
"A lot of wonderful work has gone into this," said AM 740's Jim Paulsen, who, along with Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, served as master of ceremonies for the evening. "Borrow money from your friends and neighbours and make sure to buy a copy of *Reminiscing*."

Saturday 9:00 to 4:00



AM740's Jim Paulsen(left) and Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, shown here with Father Mark Curtis served as the masters of ceremonies recently at the CD release party for Curtis' latest CD Reminiscing.







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