

Library celebrates 150 years in Milton

STORY AND PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

In the year ahead as the Milton Public Library commemorates its 150th anniversary, people will get a chance to take part in the celebrations along with staff at the library. That's an important part of what the celebrations will be all about for Chief Librarian Leslie Fitch. "We want people to be as interested in the celebrations as we are."

Ms. Fitch says that over the course of the year the library has numerous activities planned to get the community involved. Quilters can vie for top spot in the library's quilting contest and a chance to see their quilt hung on the wall at the library. The contest begins in January, with the winning entry selected in March. Then in February, the library is launching its 150 Reasons to Love the Library contest. Following that, staff will collect stories about the library during the month of April.

And throughout the year, the library will also hold special events for children.

Looking back at the library's history will also be an important part of the celebrations. Ms. Fitch says the library will be publishing a history of the Milton Public Library in 2005. As well, the library board has commissioned local artist Marian Detlor

to produce a watercolour depicting the library building on Bruce Street. The building has housed the library in Milton since 1974, but Ms. Fitch says eventually the Town plans to construct a new central library. She said that staff wanted some "tangible reminder" of their current home, and that's why Ms. Detlor was commissioned to produce a painting of the Bruce Street location.

The year's celebrations will culminate in a special celebration at the library on October 21 during Ontario Public Library Week. "It will serve as the punctuation of the year, everything will build up to that event."

Ms. Fitch says she's excited about the year ahead, and she feels privileged to be part of this important moment in the library's history. "It's something we are very excited about. It's such a unique opportunity to celebrate where we have been and where we are going. It's not every business or organization that has the opportunity to



Leslie Fitch, chief librarian

look back 150 years."

Later this month, the library will be posting information about the celebrations on its website www.mpl.on.ca. People can also contact the library at 905-875-2665 for further information.

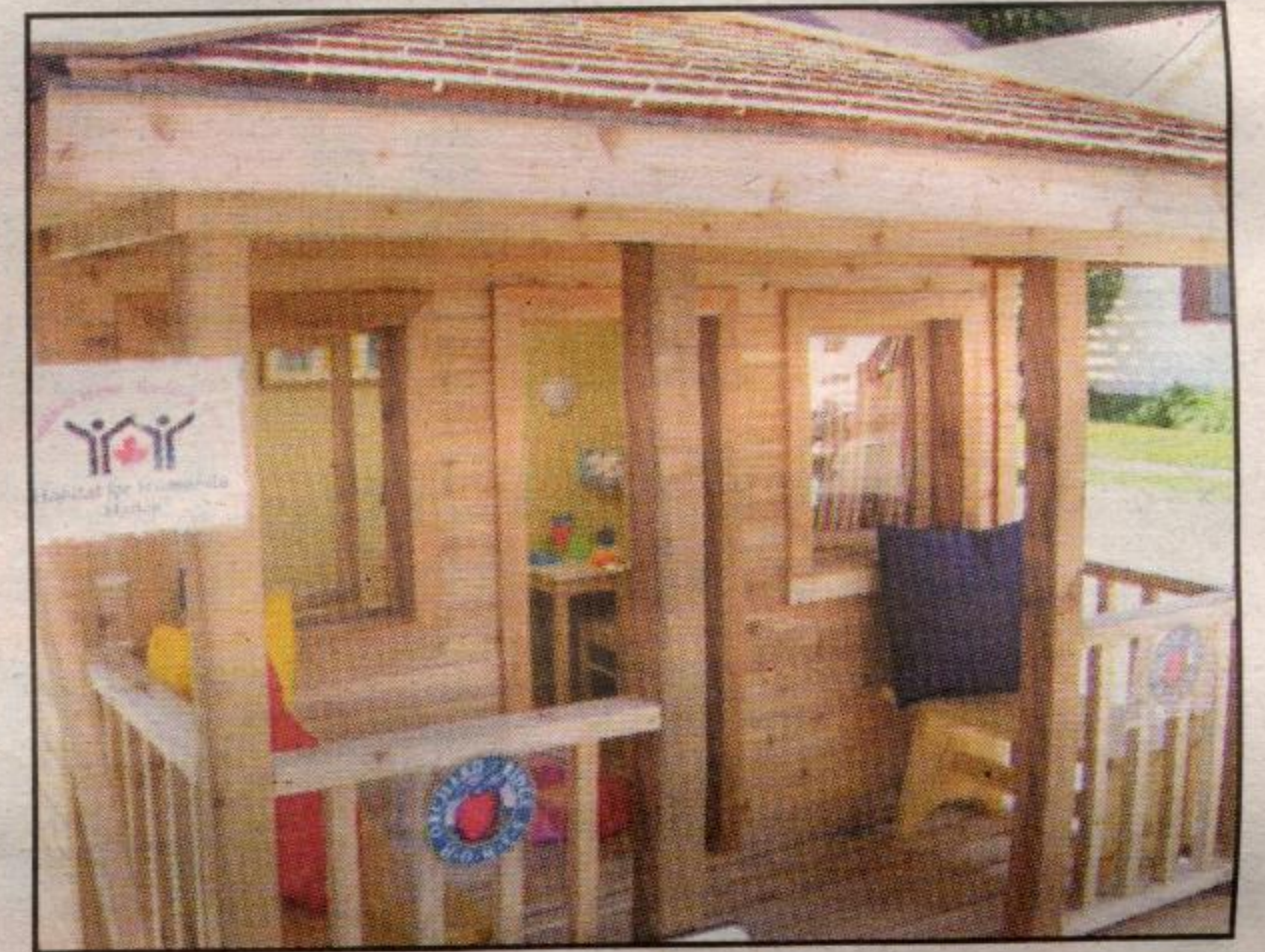
Habitat playhouse to be raffled

By ANN KORNUA

Habitat for Humanity is giving a house to another lucky family this year. This time it's the Habitat for Humanity playhouse that will be raffled off. This children's size house has been used as a travelling booth on the campaign to raise funds for the Acton home build. This beautiful playhouse is worth over \$7000. The raffle winner will be chosen and announced by Santa Clause on location at the Appleby Mall in Burlington on December 22 2004, 12 pm.

The "NASHVILLE" style cedar playhouse is 8x9 feet, and was custom designed for the people at Habitat for Humanity. It features a porch with seating, three curtained windows, outfitted with tables and chairs, interior lighting, a skylight and chalkboard. The playhouse was primarily sponsored by Orchard Ridge Homes. The playhouse is now at the Appleby Mall in Burlington after traveling around Halton for numerous fund raising events over the past year. Time is getting close to the draw date and tickets for this wonderful playhouse are still available at the Habitat for Humanity booth in the mall and the ReStore located 1800 Appleby Line, Burlington. The ReStore is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5:30 pm and until 4 pm on Saturdays. Ticket prices start at five dollars for one or three for ten dollars. A book of twelve tickets is at a special price of forty dollars.

Proceeds from this raffle will go towards the build site at Acton. Construction started September 2004 and completion is expected to be in late January of 2005.



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