

Music for Young Children

STORY AND PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA

Joanne Harrison can be found standing between her students, clapping her hands and encouraging them like a good music teacher should. She teaches Music for Young Children classes, one of the world's leading music learning systems that integrates keyboard and music elements. Her students vary in age from three to ten years old and follow a planned structure of rhythm ensembles, singing, ear training, theory and composing techniques. "The premise is to teach children that music is fun," Joanne explains.

The idea behind the Music for Young Children program is to encourage children to develop a positive routine to learning music. The program provides the required structure for learning to take place while allowing the freedom of the child to think. Children are motivated to set goals in their music training while practicing in a playful, positive environment. The students meet in small groups of their own age category once a week for an hour while accompanied by their parent or caregiver who also participate in the program. The program itself can last from three to five years, depending on the student's age, with each learning year typically consisting of 36 lessons.

The Music for Young Children program is an untraditional approach to learning music. Joanne incorporates a series of fun games and sometimes uses puppets for her younger students to help them find fun in learning musical scores and theory. Making it fun helps the students set goals for themselves. "The last year of the program, the children are able to take their grade 1 piano exam through the Royal Conservatory of Music or Conservatory Canada," Joanne explains. "All of my students who have taken the exam have achieved first class honours with distinction, which is the highest achievement."

Parents come to classes so they can learn together with their child. "This way it means that child and parent can

spend time together and when they go home, the parent can help their child at home." The teachings behind the Music for Young Children program insists on parent participation and promotes the values that music instruction should be a pleasant experience. For children, learning music helps unlock their creative learning characteristics. By focusing on a skill such as music, they build self-esteem and problem solving skills while enriching their world with the benefits of music. Every year, Joanne stands by proudly as her students perform in recitals and have their moment in front of friends and family. "It is fun to be a teacher and to see the look on students' faces when they complete a song," Joanne says.

To find out more about the Music for Young Children program and if your child might be suited for an exciting experience in learning music, you can contact Joanne by phone at 905-875-0889, or log onto the official Music for Young Children website at www.myc.com.



Joanne Harrison stands between two of her students, Morgan Scannell (right) and Paige Camille (left) during a lesson.

International Plowing Match

Before the leaves even begin to fall off the trees, there's another sure way to tell that summer has come to a close and that's the plethora of fall fairs.

The granddaddy of them all, The International Plowing Match, will be running from September 20 through 24 at Carson Farms and Auction in Listowel.

Open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the fair will be chock full of things for visitors of all ages to see and do.

Their four entertainment stages will feature live acts such as Terry Sumsion and on closing day, George Fox.

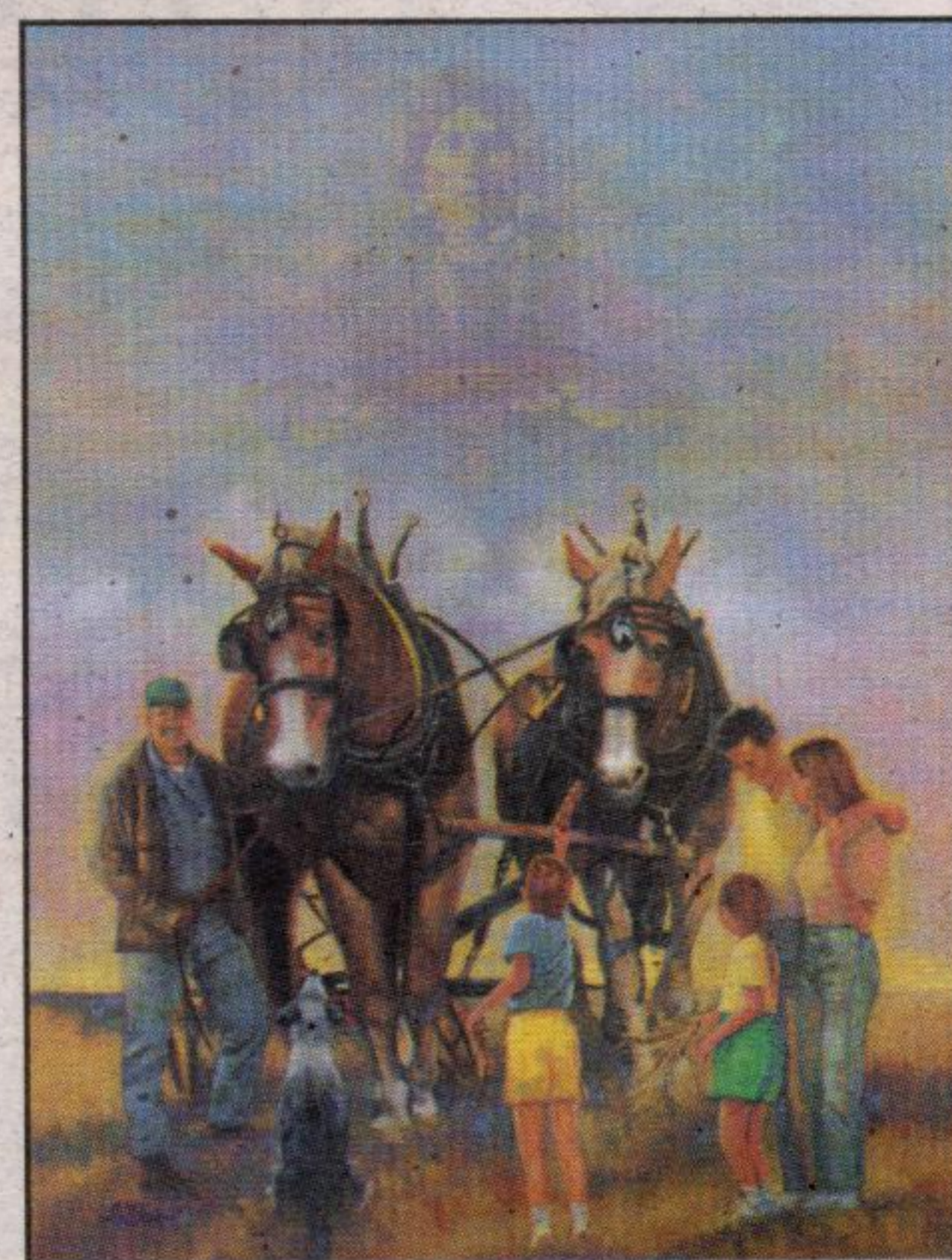
The theme this year is corn and in keeping with the slogan "Come and Be Amazed", a two-acre, spiral corn maze, created by Ernst and Nelly Hofer of Ontario Corn Maze will be featured.

With the corn already over six feet, it's estimated that it will take participants about fifteen minutes to make their way through. For clues, look for agricultural questions posted throughout.

Corncob Bob, the match's mascot and promoter of renewable fuel, will also be on hand.

For those looking for refreshments, the Lifestyle tent will be holding a tea featuring a special blend created just for the match.

Other special guests will include the Budweiser Team making their only international visit this year as well as Ontario's Lieutenant



Come be Amazed!

2005 INTERNATIONAL
PLOWING MATCH & RURAL EXPO
SEPTEMBER 20-24, 2005
PERTH COUNTY • www.ipm2005.ca
Listowel, Ontario • 1-888-995-3001

Governor, James Bartleman who will participate in a VIP plowing match with the Wardens of Ontario.

For those interested in art, Gary McLaughlin's original oil "Native Harvest" will be auctioned off and 100 prints made for the occasion will be available for purchase.

The match will take place at R.R.#3, Listowel, highway 86, east of Listowel. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children.

For more information about the International Plowing Match, try their website at www.ipm2005.ca.

guess who didn't winterize?



Presto

LeisureScapes

POOLS • HOT TUBS • BACKYARD LIVING

Be Our Honoured Guests

Don't spend another winter dreading spring surprises! Learn how to close your pool the right way.

Pool Closing Information Seminar

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2005
at The Grand Chalet,
324 Steeles Ave. E., Milton

Refreshments ~ Door Prizes

RSVP @ 905-876-2211

PRESTO POOLS
305B Steeles Ave. E., Milton
905-876-2211