Father Mark to retire from touring

BY ANN KORNUTA

After 31 years of performing, Father Mark Curtis is cutting back touring on the road. Known internationally as the Singing Priest, the local Milton boy devoted his life to praising God through music and touched the hearts of people everywhere. Today, Father Mark is a singer/songwriter, Anglican Priest and Milton Councillor. After a successful career as an entertainer, he is slowing down to focus more on his home life and service to the community.

"I've raised more then 11 million dollars for charities and have had numerous Juno nominations. After a lot of prayer and reflection I felt it was time to move on to other things," Father Mark reflects. "This year will be the last year on the road. I am not young and it takes a toll on your family. There comes a time when you want to settle down and just stay home."

Father Mark wants to focus more on his family, the ministry and the demands of his political life as Milton Town Councillor. "I enjoy being a councillor and being the peoples' advocate," he explains. "I see this as a mellowing in my life. I think I have found balance in my life I am happy with now."

Father Mark comments that he owes most of his success in the last 8 years to his wife and manager Rita. "She knows the pulse of the pews. Rita looked in my eyes and told me I am not having that much fun anymore," Father Mark says reluctantly. "It gets to a time you have to

move on..' Father Mark is releasing his 18th recording "Coming Home" of Christmas songs in concert at St. Paul's United Church in Milton, October 14th. For ticket information or to hear more of the Singing Priest, go online to www.fathermarkcurtis.com.

The return of the Milton native and he'll bring his orchestra with him

ilton Concert Presentations has L announced that the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony is coming to town on Saturday October 1st, for its first ever concert in Milton. The evening will feature "Pops" musical selections such as movie music from Star Wars and Lord of the Rings, and classic favorites from the Hungarian Rhapsody to Pomp and Circumstance.

A special feature of the event will be the conductor, Milton native Daniel Warren. Many residents of the town will remember him from his youth, as he made a name for himself with his remarkable trumpet playing. Not to disappoint concertgoers, Warren has promised that at some point in the evening he will pull out

the trusty horn and join with the orchestra. Nationally acclaimed for its perfor-Kitchener-Waterloo the mances, Symphony is the cultural centrepiece of the Region of Waterloo, performing close to 100 concerts annually. It is comprised of 52, professional musicians of international calibre. Now in its 60th season, the KWS

has recorded 16 CDs, toured across Canada, and can be heard regularly on CBC Radio Two.

The concert is to be held on Saturday October 1st at St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main Street in Milton. Tickets can be ordered by calling; 905-876-4014. Adult tickets are \$30 and seniors and students are \$25.

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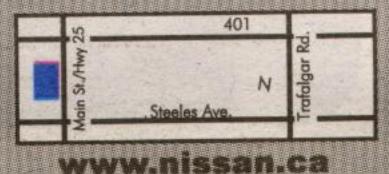
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