

9 million women can't be wrong



Pictured left to right are Stephanie Janiec, Cecilia Thorpe, Heather McKinnon newest members of the Silverwood Women's Institute.

Fun with a serious purpose is the aim of Silverwood Women's Institute. When members met at the home of Joan Matheson of Sixth Line, the 9th November for a pot luck supper followed by an auction, the humour of auctioneer-member Doris Calder, and the antics of Chandler, resident Labrador guide-dog-in-training, encouraged serious bidding for the member-donated items.

The evening ended with the official welcome of three new members, Cecilia Thorpe, Stephanie Janiec, and Heather McKinnon. At sixteen years old, Stephanie and Heather are Silverwood WI's youngest members. The monthly meetings are held in rotation at members' homes and Stephanie's interest in the WI was piqued when she observed a meeting hosted in her own home by her mother. Heather is a fourth generation WI member who attended her first WI meeting at the age of two and a half. More recently, it was the painting workshop and craft activities that convinced Heather the WI has much to offer her.

Silverwood WI spans all ages and backgrounds. Some members have deep roots in the community. The President, Beryle Beeney, is the oldest member followed by Sophie Matheson, Joan's mother-in-law, and mother of Secretary, Linda Semerko. Other members, like Shirley Thaiss and Gretchen Miller are newcomers, not only to this area but to Canada.

Shirley, even before she left England, made inquiries as to where she would find a WI close to her new home. Gretchen was an urbanite in Western New York before she married a Canadian and transplanted herself in Halton. Attracted by the WI's display at the Canada Day celebrations in Glen Williams in 2002, she joined.

Founded in 1897, in Stoney Creek, Ontario by Adelaide Hoodless, the Women's Institute was to be method of educating rural women with the purpose of improving their lives through studying domestic science. The WI grew rapidly with each WI operating at a community level, adapting to local needs. There are now over nine million members in over 70 countries. Over the years, Women's Institutes have been responsible for lobbying governments and other agencies on issues affecting the quality of life for all Canadians. Their many successes include: painting of white lines on Provincial Highways; mandatory stopping for school buses with flashing lights; signs at railway crossings; the wrapping of bread; the pasteurization of milk; poison containers being clearly marked.

By participation at a local level a member can assist women and children in need world-wide. A member of a local WI branch in Ontario is a member of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO), the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) and the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). The FWIC has launched a new project to improve the lives of families in two Innu communities in Labrador based on a list of needs provided by those communities' leaders. Canadian members of the ACWW are supporting the training of women in Tanzania in nutrition and catering. Says Silverwood WI Vice-President Rosamund Edwards "WI representatives make follow-up visits to gauge the success of projects. One representative brought back photos and gave a talk on our project in Guatemala. She said that the people there are so thankful not only to the Women's Institute but to Canadians in general."

For more information about the Women's Institute, contact Eve Martin, 519-853-1382 or Annemarie McDonald 905-873-2519, silverwood_wi@yahoo.ca, or go to www.fwio.on.ca.

recreation & entertainment

YOUR GUIDE TO WHERE TO GO & WHAT TO DO IN HALTON

The sounds of Christmas

BY DONNA DANIELLI

Christmas is a time for celebration, a time for rejoicing with loved ones and celebrating all that the season has to offer. It's also a time to think of others, to find ways to reach out and those in need. The St. Patrick's Folk Group is raising funds to help those in need with the sale of their Christmas cd "Listen While the Angels Sing".

The title track is one of two original compositions by Joe Allain, a Quality Assurance Supervisor for the Region of Halton and also features guest performances by Ian Thomas and Sonny Del Rio. "This folk group has been in existence since 1970," says Joe, who is an original member. The cd was produced just before Christmas last year for a limited sales run and raised \$10,000. The funds were split between the St. Patrick's Church Heritage Fund, and the charity organizations St. Vincent de Paul and Out of the Cold. "We have been told by the organizations that the funds were used to provide shelter for 220 for four nights, as well as food for 350 people," says a slightly amazed Joe. "We're excited by the fact that the cd helps needy people and has the added benefit of providing a Christmas cd that's suitable for the whole family."

Along with the original tracks written by Joe, the cd contains such family favourites as "Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas", "Mary, Did You Know", "Oh, Holy Night", and "Frosty the Snowman", all done in the folk music style. "We also have a fun version of "Deck The Halls" in which we include some classical interludes," says Joe. "It's very entertaining."

For more information about "Listen While The Angels Sing", contact Joe either through e-mail at stpatcd@mountiancable.net or by phone at 905-574-9040. Cost for the cd is \$15 and shipping is available for an additional cost of only \$2.50.



Back Row: Vince VanSchyndel, Maria Tutolo, Rose Allain, Heather Fowler-Schlett, Brian Allore. Middle Row: Jennifer Lipnicky, Teresa Herechuk, Joe Allain, Katie Lipnicky, Amanda Greschner. Front Row: Geraldine McMullen, Lydia McMullen, Maria Kucherawy, Margaret Vernon. Submitted photo

Chicken Little

In Disney's first film with CGI animation (without Pixar), *Chicken Little* tells the tale of Oakey Oak's most famous citizen, *Chicken Little*, who caused a town wide panic when he claimed the sky is falling. An entire year later, everyone in Oakey Oaks, including his dad, are still shunning the poor chicken for his false claim. Determined to reclaim his reputation, *Chicken Little* joins the baseball team, barely able to lift the bat. Happily, *Chicken Little*'s three outcast friends believe in him: a pig with a seventies disco fetish, a goldfish in a diving helmet, and a buck-toothed female duckling named Abby.

Chicken Little's friends are all encouraging and defend the chicken over his incident with the sky. Abby, the duckling (played by Joan Cusak) is convinced by her sources in the magazine *Modern Mallard* that Little only needs some closure with his dad to get over his downed luck. But when the sky really does start falling due to a full-on alien invasion, and only *Chicken Little* knows why, his dad is still skeptical and time is running out!

film review

BY LAURA SCHOFIELD

Audiences of children and adults alike are sure to appreciate this film that has humour for all ages. There are many allusions to films that adult viewers will recognize such as *Vertigo*, *The Blob*, *Independence Day*, and *War of the Worlds*. In addition to the humor, the film also has several musical montages that are set to *Barenaked Ladies* songs and restyled pop songs like the old Garfunkel "All I Know" song.

While the animation may be new and magnificent to watch, Disney does not go far beyond the original storyline of *Chicken Little* in this film. The funny moments aren't as many as some may have hoped but the goofy nature of the characters make up for the lack of laugh out loud moments. This film is rated G but has some allusions that adults only would understand. With a run time of just over an hour, this film is sure to please younger audiences and keep parents from falling asleep in their seats.

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prime time radio

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