

INDEPENDENT / FREE PRESS

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment in brief

Photoart

The 16th annual Photoart '96, presented by the Halton Hills Camera Club will be held at the Gallery of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre, until March 30. A juried exhibition of photoart by Halton Hills photographers.

Star Trek exhibit

Guelph Museums and Guelph Trek club presents The Star Trek Phenomenon, an exhibit until March 31. For info: 519-836-1221.

March Break at the library

Halton Hills Public Libraries is the place to be this March Break. Use your library card to pick up a March Break Survival Kit (school age children only please). Are you a budding author? Enter the Create-a-Story contest. There is also a Family Scavenger Hunt which will involve the whole family as you search your neighborhood, library and community for 100 items. See your March Break brochure for more details.

Open house March 11

Barbershop singers want new talent

By BRAD REAUME

Special to The Independent/Free Press

Enthusiasm marks members of the A Cappella Showcase.

They hoped their debut performance at Milton Mall on March 2 was as enjoyable for the crowd as it was for the singers. Singing four-part barbershop harmony, the newly formed group consists of about 45 members with as many as 80 spots available as quality singers join.

They will soon be part of a much larger competitive organization, Harmony Incorporated, one of three in North America.

A Cappella Showcase formed in December after two dozen members split from a singing group in Guelph. They were seeking a more competitive edge to their performances.

The group has located in

Milton, a convenient meeting spot for commuting members and they sing at various functions, featuring familiar, upbeat songs and show tunes with a strong visual element. They include dancing, movement and even some comedy numbers in their repertoire.

"There is a strong visual aspect to what we do," said music director Judy Comeau. "We enhance the music with choreography, movement and costuming, and all without instruments."

Comeau says their fees for a performance are reasonable and negotiable. They perform largely for the love of it, but are obliged to recover some of their costs for costumes and travel.

The ensemble consists entirely of women, many of whom have been involved in harmony groups for many years.

"There are opportunities for personal growth," said Comeau. "At first people are nervous to perform in public but it helps build self-esteem and a positive attitude. People develop leadership skills and can gain experience speaking to an audience."

The group is looking for additional members; they practise Mondays, 7:30 p.m. at the Optimist Centre, Milton with March 11 set as an open house for potential members to check out the sound. Voice tests are conducted to determine a person's range and if it is suitable to the harmony style of singing. Potential singers have to be able to carry a tune and want to improve.

"It's more than a hobby, it's a way of life," Comeau said. "Someone asked me to join a group in 1967 and it changed my life."



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Mr. & Mrs. Ray Norgate
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