

Georgetown minister joins bid to promote religious harmony

While Georgetown doesn't yet have a synagogue, mosque, or large visible minority groups, it may some day soon as the town grows.

"We need not feel fearful or threatened by that," says the Reverend Jim Ball of St. John's United Church, Georgetown and Glen Williams.

He's just back from a unique Ottawa gathering of leaders representing many religions and races in Canada. They were looking at ways to work better together, as more stories of racial tension and religious vandalism are hitting the news.

Many in the room had stories to tell of bricks through windows, defaced cemeteries, prejudice and persecution. Hosted by the Canadian Jewish Congress, the forum heard from Muslims, blacks, native Canadians, members of Falun Dafa, and many others.

"No one else has been hosting such events with any regularity," says Ball.

"These groups have little history of working together, and this was a good start."

He was invited to represent Christian clergy, after two years as chairperson of the Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation, which includes Protestant and



REVEREND JIM BALL

Jewish leaders and Catholic bishops.

In one way, Georgetown has been promoting religious harmony for years through the monthly meetings of its Ministerial Association, which Ball chaired for the last three years. He notes, however, that many other

faiths may be present in Georgetown homes, from Buddhists and Baha'i to Moslems.

As the town grows, we can be proactive or reactive he says.

"Information, understanding and respect is a better approach than hoping that the diversity we see elsewhere won't manifest itself here."

The Ottawa forum is to be repeated in western and eastern Canada next year. Through such events, Ball hopes that the diverse groups represented can "muddle through to a place where we understand why differences are there, and move on to a place where we're more together."

—By Janet Duval, special



The best in Canada

Sinead Irvine of Georgetown won first place in the Seniors Ladies competition at the Canadian Irish Dance Championships in Niagara Falls recently. Irvine dances for Butler-Fearon O'Connor School of Dance, based in Brampton and Kitchener. She is now a five-time Canadian champion. This win entitles the Honours Communication student at Wilfrid Laurier University, to compete at the World Irish Dancing Championships to be held in Ireland over Easter.

Photo submitted

"Precious Memories"



The Independent & Free Press

2004 BABY HONOR ROLL

will be published on

DECEMBER 31, 2004

In the Independent/Free Press & On Our Website
www.independentfreepress.com

DEADLINE DECEMBER 10, 2004

\$27 tax included

For more information please call

Kristie or Mary **905-873-0301**

E-mail: babies@independentfreepress.com

WAREHOUSE SALE

PROCTER & GAMBLE

COVERGIRL MAXFACTOR®

● LIPS ● EYES ● NAILS ● FACE MAKEUP

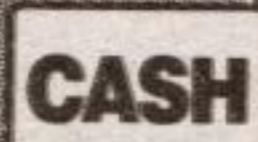
UP TO **75% OFF** MSRP

PLUS NUMEROUS BRAND NAME PRODUCTS BY

PROCTER & GAMBLE

November 20th to December 5th

2040 Dundas St. East, Mississauga



	BLOOR	
	DUNDAS	HWY. 427
DIXIE	QUEENSWAY	N ↑
	QEW	

Hours:

Mon-Fri: 10:00AM-8:00PM

Sat: 10:00AM-6:00PM

Sun: 11:00AM-5:00PM