



HURRAY: Students, volunteers and staff of The Club celebrate the grand opening of the tutoring program run by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton at St. Joseph Catholic School on Tuesday, Dec. 4. – *Justina Pembleton photo*

Big Brothers Big Sisters launched The Club on Tuesday at St. Joe's

by Justina Pembleton

Big Brother Big Sisters of Halton (BBBS) launched The Club at St. Joseph Catholic School on Tuesday, Dec. 4, a tutoring program for children in need of academic help.

On hand at the opening was Anne-Marie Doherty, program manager, Laura Sandford, North-Halton coordinator, Wendy Somerville, volunteer coordinator and Colin Simpson, school principal. The program has been running for three weeks, with 16 kids in total. Most of the volunteer tutors are students from Christ the King School in Georgetown, who are matched by personality with the kids.

The program is a part of a three-year \$109,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) that began last year with the program opening at

two schools in Milton. The Club has also been operating at McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School and they celebrated their grand opening the next day with Mayor Rick Bonnette on hand to cut the tape.

Students are recommended into this program by their teachers and, being an academic based program, their reports are reviewed before being paired up with a tutor. The gives children who may have difficulty getting help with homework the chance to complete it with the help of a teen mentor. BBBS began recruiting teen volunteers in September and only if their average was above 70 per cent were they able to apply.

"The tutors here are amazing," said Anne-Marie Doherty, program manager. "They're so helpful, excited and they make it fun."

Doherty was also impressed by the enthusiasm of the town, getting involved and helping out.

"People here have been so welcoming and helpful, it's great."

Kids begin assembling in the library at 3:45 p.m. once a week, gathering the name tags, homework booklets and pencil cases provided by the staff. They then put a sticker next to their name on a board under the appropriate date to ensure staff that they are present. They then meet up with their teen tutor and begin work on their homework.

Next year, BBBS is planning to open two more programs at two schools in Georgetown. Each school interested will submit a request and BBBS will look over who has the highest needs based on student population.

"Every school that has

got on board has really got excited about this program. It's been really great to see," said Laura Sandford.

To find out more about volunteering with The Club or other BBBS Halton programs please call 905-878-8840 or visit www.bbbshalton.ca.

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."
St. John 4:23 KJV

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What's Your Beef?

Put it in a letter to the Editor!

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.

ACTON'S EARLY DAYS

The 2006 edition of Acton's Early Days was unexpectedly in greater demand than we had anticipated and some friends were unable to acquire a copy. An additional 100 books have now been printed and are available.

To acquire a copy call Dave and Kay Dills at 519-853-0408; or e-mail: david_dills_29@sympatico.ca.

The price remains the same (\$25.00, plus postage). All tax is included. There are no changes in the book so if you were able to get a book last year you don't need to order this book.

Also available: **"Marching Down Mill Street"**, the history of Acton bands, \$15.; and **"Lest We Forget"**, the military history of Acton published by the Legion, \$15.

Christmas Memorial Dove Tree

Once again, you, your family and friends are invited to take a complimentary dove from our Memorial Dove Tree in memory of each of your loved ones who have died. The Dove Tree will be in the funeral home December 1st to December 24th

MacKinnon Family Funeral Home
"Shoemaker Chapel"
55 Mill Street East, Acton