

# Children's workshop proves music can be fun too . . .

By Pat Ford  
The Kelso Music Centre offers a day camp with a difference. At the Shell House on Lakeshore Road in Oakville 50 children are spending 10 days at music workshops designed to introduce them to the world of natural music.

In the old estate house and grounds owned by Shell the young musicians follow a daily schedule of singing, string and percussion instruction, music appreciation and games and crafts.

The workshops are part of the program of the Kelso Music Centre, begun in Oakville in 1970 by music teacher Mrs. Louise Thompson. Although her first concern was with older students

looking for professional string quartet training, Mrs. Thompson also realized the lack of musical summer activities for young children. And so the Children's Music Workshop began.

Share creativity  
Director Dorinda Vollmer calls the instruction "intense, yet relaxed and informal." The children call their professional teachers and their teenage craft instructors by first names, and Dorinda calls the results "a sharing of everybody's creativity".

Everyone begins the day together singing, then different groups go off to their own workshops or recreational activities. After lunch the schedule

is repeated: children may take up to five workshops a day.

At three o'clock every afternoon there is a different "special event" such as a concert by the Oakville Citizens Band or a trip to a children's play. On the last day the children will wind up their two weeks by performing songs, dances and skits for their families at a wiener roast and party.

All the children, both those who already have a musical background and those who have never taken a music lesson before, enjoy the program and its variety. Their response and the success of the workshops has resulted in plans for a series of Saturday morning workshops to be held in the fall.



FOUR XYLOPHONES are among the percussion instruments the children use in the ensemble workshop. They learn rhythm training and co-ordination of parts within the group. (Photos by P. Ford)



A FIRST INTRODUCTION to strings is taught by Bruce Richardson. The children learn fingering positions and bowing technique.



YOU ONLY USE the top half of your bow, so teacher Bruce Richardson marks the middle with masking tape for Catherine Foster of Aurora, who is staying with her grandmother Mrs. K. D. Foster in Milton to attend the camp.

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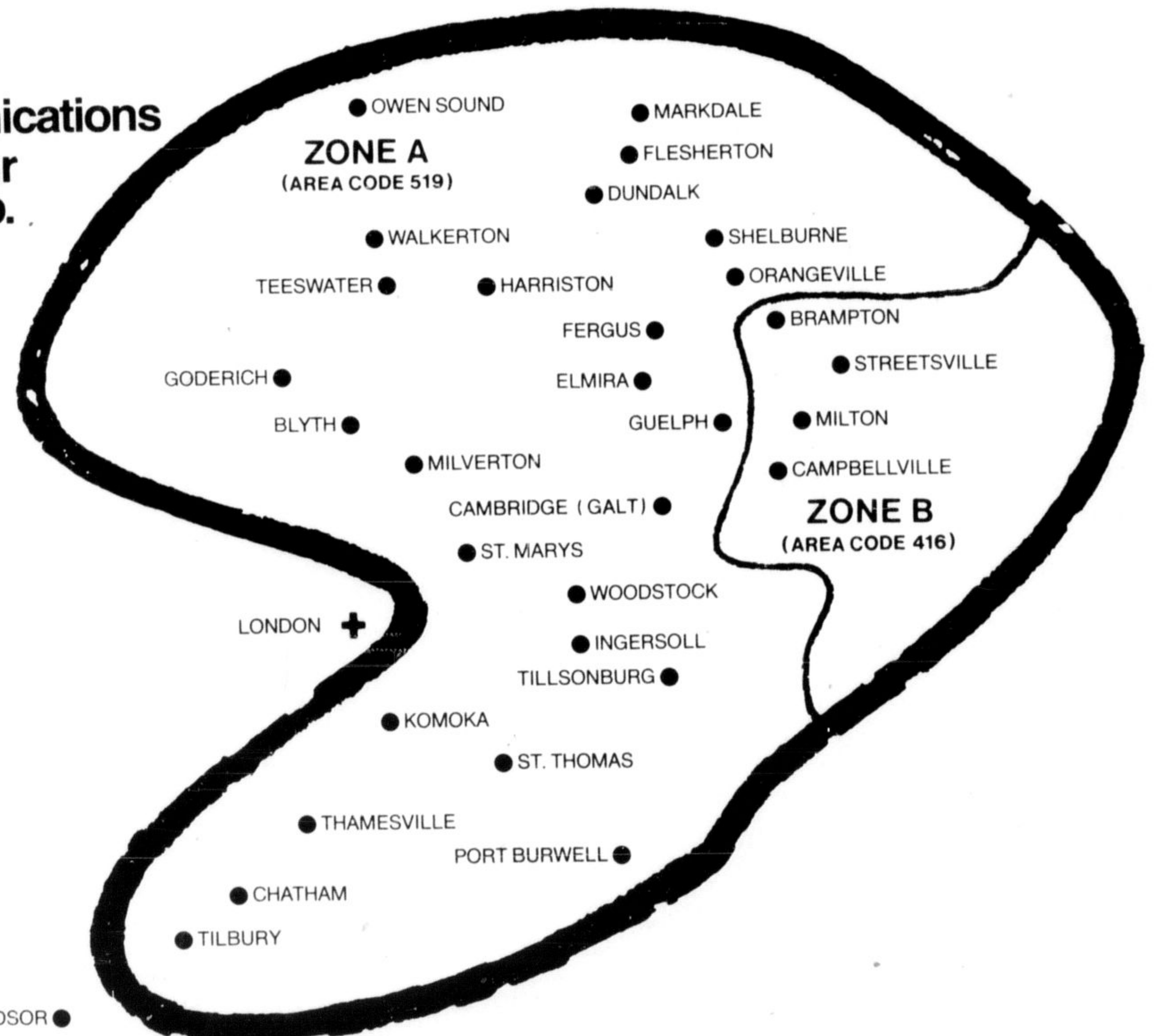
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