



SINGING THEIR hearts out to two large audiences are the team of Bram Morrison, Sharon Hampson and drummer Bill Usher during a concert at St. Paul's Church

Saturday afternoon. More than 1,100 children and adults enjoyed the two performances at the church.

Elephant entertainers a hit at St. Paul's Church

by Michael Boyle

More than 1,100 adults and children clapped and sang with approval at two performances of the Sharon, Lois and Bram folk concert Saturday afternoon at St. Paul's United Church.

Entertaining with a unique style which has earned the duo two gold records in just two years of being together, the group was especially a hit with the children.

The group which was without Lois Lillienstein because of the flu bug, sing and at the same time encourage the audience and mostly the children to participate and play along with the songs.

Two performances at the church were almost filled to capacity. Admission was a flat \$2.50 per person. "We were hoping we'd break even," said Sharon Pyle, "but the response was just fantastic and it looks like we're going to make some money from it."

The group was invited to sing because members of

the church's Christian Education program felt there was a void in Milton for family entertainment. Sharon, Lois and Bram fit the bill perfectly.

"They're big with the kids," added Mrs. Pyle.

"They're to the children what John Denver is to adults. I was impressed with the parents who accompanied their children to the show."

Many parents enjoyed the music and participated with their children in the songs.

The group sings mostly traditional songs of non-denominational variety which most children know by heart and could sing along without too much prompting. Parents did a fair amount of singing as well.

The group got together in 1978 almost by accident and released their first album in May of that year. The record, *One Elephant, Deux Elephants*, became an instant success and reached the gold plateau 14 months later. A subsequent album, *Smorgasbord*, was released last October and sales skyrocketed hitting gold just six weeks later.

The group tours constantly across Canada and recently ventured into the United States for the first time.

The team also has been featured on television specials for both Canadian networks in the past two years.

The success of the group in Milton has encouraged the church to hold another day of the sort. In October, black gospel singer Louise Rose of Ottawa will spend a day at the church singing with children during the day and in a cabaret setting in the evening.

Teachers keep on job

Halton's 1,165 high school teachers are on the job this week, and they will remain on the job until after a contract ratification vote is taken.

Mediator Martin Teplitsky imposed a news blackout on the parties after a tentative agreement was reached Saturday.

"I can't deal with that sort of question," Mr. Teplitsky said Monday when asked if parts of the settlement were going to arbitration or mediation-arbitration.

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) vice-president David Judd during the federation's annual meeting last week in Toronto. Judd is a former president of Halton's OSSTF.

"Maybe it's time for students to lose their credits and their school years to force the government to address the problem."

"In the past, most boards have granted credits after a strike. It may be we're approaching the time when teachers refuse to grant credits because of time lost during a strike."

Mr. Judd's comments were reported in the press and on television. OSSTF headquarters in Toronto issued a one-page letter to the editor the day after Mr. Judd's words were reported.

The letter, over the signature of provincial OSSTF President Margaret Wilson, states in part: "Some school boards have taken note of the fact teachers spend considerable time and effort in quickly restoring normal operations after strikes."

The difficulty for teachers who try to reduce the bad effects of strikes on students, is "they may well be encouraging trustees to create strike situations," according to the OSSTF president.

"Because trustees do not see strikes as having a serious effect on their system, they seem, in some cases, to be engineering confrontation with their employee groups in order to gain an advantage at the bargaining table," states the letter.

That kind of situation

date has been set for a ratification vote. OSSTF is looking at a vote after ten days to two weeks.

"There's a need for information meetings in the schools," Mr. Ness said.

"They've put a tent over all of us," said Halton Board of Education spokesman Cam Jackson Monday.

He said he was not prepared to comment regarding recommendations to the board to accept the tentative agreement.

Board and OSSTF representatives buckled down to 14-hours of negotiations, with mediator Teplitsky, at

the Hotel Toronto Saturday.

A tentative agreement was made around midnight, according to Teplitsky. "The credit goes to the parties. They were skillful in handling the situation," observed the mediator.

Teplitsky indicated he was also pleased the teachers and board averted what could have been a very long strike.

The two sides returned to mediation within 10 days of teachers giving the federation a 93.5 per cent strike mandate.

Saturday's efforts were the second bout of mediation for Halton during this year's contract talks.

Earlier mediation, with Teplitsky, failed after seven hours.

Teplitsky then aimed the two sides towards arbitration or a mixture of mediation and arbitration. Both forms are binding. Both were unacceptable to OSSTF.

Halton high school teachers have worked without a contract since August. The main issues separating the two sides have been wages, working conditions and retirement gratuity.

OSSTF to repair image

Ontario's high school teachers are trying to blunt bad publicity given to the "maybe it's time for students to lose their credits and their school years" remarks.

The words came out of the mouth of Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) vice-president David Judd during the federation's annual meeting last week in Toronto. Judd is a former president of Halton's OSSTF.

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must be stopped, according to President Wilson. "That is the concern raised by teachers last week and that is the reason why teachers are prepared to consider strong and unusual ac-

tion to attract public attention to an inequity in collective bargaining between teachers and trustees."

Nowhere in the letter is Mr. Judd's name mentioned or his words used.

Soroptimists eye Halton

The Soroptimist International Club of Toronto is attempting to organize a club in Halton.

This is a service club for executive, professional and business women and is the counterpart of Rotary International for men.

Area businesses have been contacted by the Toronto club to obtain the names of female employees who hold managerial or executive positions.

Women will in turn be contacted in the next few weeks and be invited to an organization meeting where they can learn more about the aims and purposes of the Soroptimist International Club.

The Club was first started in 1921, and is dedicated to community service and the advancement of the status of women. The organization has more than 30,000 members representative of 17 countries throughout the world.

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CORRECTION

Our Flyer in today's paper advertised Timex watches at \$12.77 each. The illustration was incorrect and should have shown only an assortment of men's and ladies' Timex mechanical watches.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused to our customers.



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Board backs French group

The French Language Advisory Committee has received partial support from Halton's Board of Education.

The committee persuaded the board to pay for membership in a French association, but failed to get the board to

cover the cost of newspaper advertising.

Also the board will pay for one member of the committee to attend the Association française des conseils scolaires de l'Ontario conference at Ottawa.

Day care rates

The question of increasing day care rates in Halton will be made part of the April 2 full budget discussions.

Health and Social Service Committee had recommended Council approve the hiring of a co-ordinator of general assistance for Halton; as well as, holding the number of day care funded spaces at 150 and approval of an increase in rates on May 1, 1980.

Council has recommended a \$22,500 study on the day care needs of Halton but this will probably not be ready in time for the budget discussions.

The need to raise rates came during budget preliminary discussions when it was pointed out

expenditures are far outstripping revenues in the current system.

The result was staff were asked to produce a report on adopting a "user pay" principle for day care as a form of increasing the rates.

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