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## ✓ Drury celebrates Deaf Education Week with pride

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
 Special to The Champion

Silence will speak volumes this week at E.C. Drury. The local school for the deaf, which comprises 270 elementary and high school students from across southern Ontario, will begin celebrating Deaf Education Week tomorrow (Wednesday).

Educating province-wide instructors and instilling pride in deaf culture are the two main objectives over the next few days — explained Education Week coordinator JoAnne Goure.

"This is the second year we've organized activities at the school. Our goal is to include as many students and their families as possible in the celebrations," said Ms Goure, with the help of interpreter Nick Markin.

One of the biggest deaf schools in both the province and across Canada, E.C. Drury will host 40 to 50 teachers from other learning centres in Ontario Wednesday and Thursday. The aim will be to pass on leading-edge instructing techniques, particularly in the field of computers.

Also on schedule for tomorrow's kickoff to Deaf Education Week is a province-wide competition for both elementary and high school students.

Participants in the Optimist Club-sponsored contest will be judged on visual presentations of "My Vision of Tomorrow's World". High school winners will receive \$1,500 scholarships while gift certificates will be award to top elementary finishers.

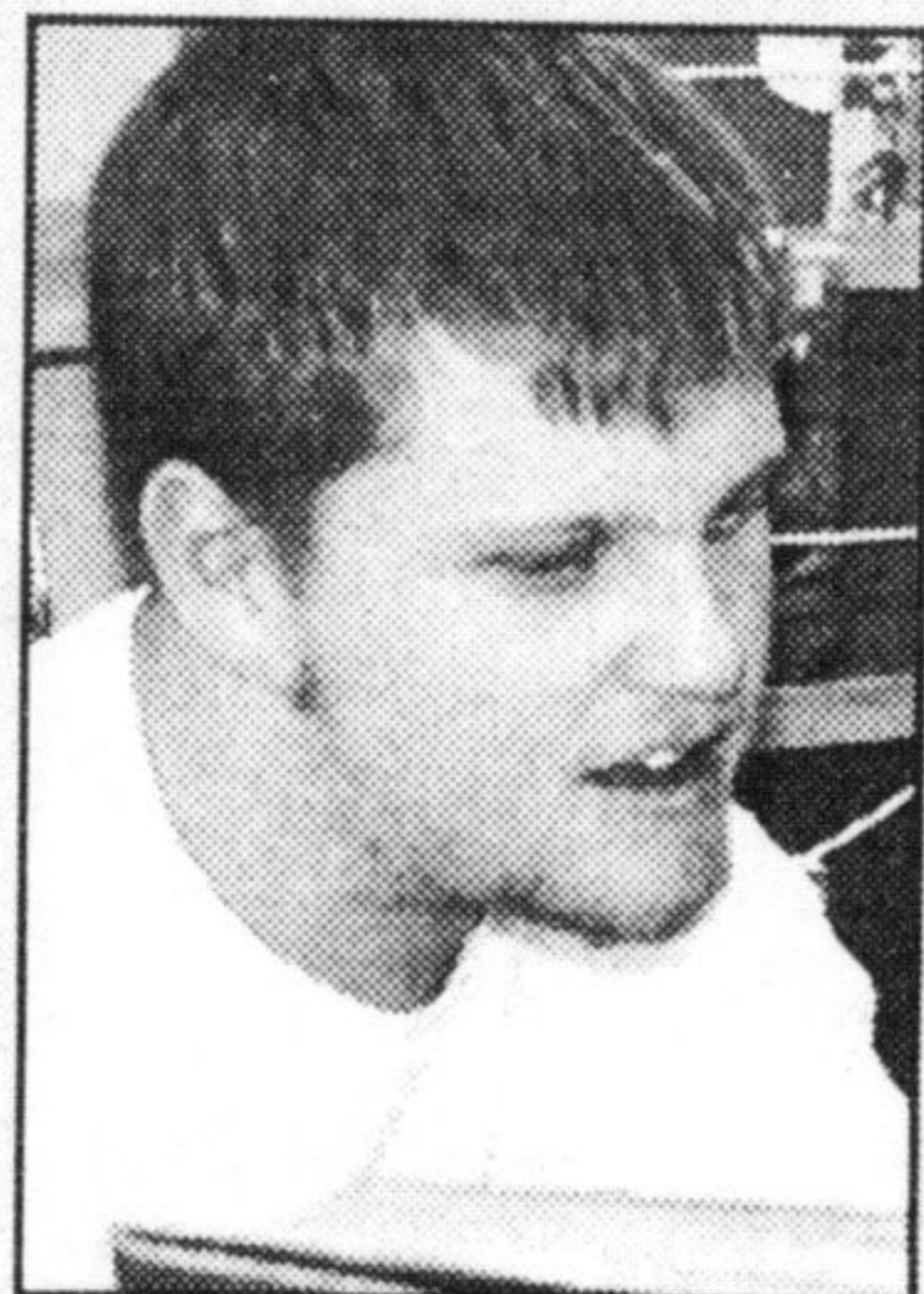
One high school student looking forward to the competition, as well as other week-long activities held in conjunction with May's Deaf Awareness Month, is local resident Derek Bell.

The 17-year-old OAC student began tutoring pre-teens this past winter and aspires to become either a deaf education instructor or psychologist. "It's very rewarding to be able to pass on my education to younger students," Derek said.

Highlighting local festivities will be Saturday's Signing Hands Annual 5km/2km Run (Walk/In-Line Skate).

Students and teachers will make a cross-town trek in their campaign to raise money for extracurricular activities and programs currently not being serviced through government funding.

"We've received many substantial grants from local businesses and outlying corporations, including \$500-plus grants from companies which we'll be featuring through T-shirt logos Saturday," said Ms Goure. "The support has been very exciting."



"It's very rewarding to be able to pass on my education to younger students."  
**DEREK BELL**

## ✓ Six-year-old has ear for waltz

By **KAREN SMITH**  
 The Champion



Carl Steinhauser, 6, of Milton took third in Ontario for a piano waltz he submitted to an age-level international music contest.

An aspiring composer as young as six years old was recently recognized for the piano waltz he wrote.

Carl Steinhauser of Joyce Boulevard won third place in Ontario for his 'Merry-Go-Round Waltz' in the Music for Young Children Composition Festival. The Grade 1 St. Peter's School student was chosen among 615 kids in the age six to eight category.

The competition was open to the more than 13,000 students of Music for Young Children, a private, Kanata-based musical instruction business whose clients are as young as four.

Carl first enrolled with the company in September, studying piano, rhythm, singing, theory and composition, said teacher Jeanne Epp of Milton.

"He's quite a talented little boy," she said. Carl said he named the piece the 'Merry-Go-Round Waltz' because it sounded like the familiar amusement ride tune while he was composing it. He wrote out the eight-bar waltz on paper and mailed it to Kanata, where Music for Young Children officials played and judged it.

Proud parents Norm and Andrea Steinhauser said Carl has taken music theory lessons in the past, but had never played the piano until last fall.

"He's got a lot of talent," Mr. Steinhauser said. "He practices on his own. He comes to me and tells me it's time to practice."

Students across Canada and the United States participate in the competition annually, Ms Epp said. This year, there were 13,093 entries in 11 different levels.

Winners were chosen in all levels from each province and state, and international first, second and third-place winners were awarded among them. The aim of the festival is participation, Ms Epp said.

Carl received a certificate noting his third-place achievement as well as a Music For Young Children commemorative sticker for taking part.

## ✓ Heartworm case surfaces in Milton dog

By **KAREN SMITH**  
 The Champion

A local veterinarian is warning dog owners about a killer canine disease that has surfaced in the Halton area.

A case of heartworm, spread solely by mosquitoes, recently showed up in a dog taken to Milton's Maplewood Veterinary Hospital for a check-up.

"This illustrates that heartworm is present in our canine and mosquito population and if your dog is not on prevention, then he or she is at risk," said Dr. Debbie Hawkins of Maplewood.

The dog, a male rottweiler adopted by Milton people from the Burlington Humane Society, had to be euthanized because the disease was too far along, Dr. Hawkins said.

Heartworm is a large parasitic worm of

the roundworm family that thrives in a dog's heart, she explained. It feeds on nutrients in the bloodstream and can grow to between 15 and 30 centimetres.

In severe cases, up to 500 worms may infect a dog. If left untreated, the disease can permanently disable a dog or eventually kill it.

The disease spreads when a dog already infected with heartworm is bitten by a mosquito, Dr. Hawkins said. While taking blood, the insect also picks up immature baby worms.

Then, over 10 to 14 days, the worms grow into larvae and are transmitted to other dogs during the mosquito's subsequent blood meals.

The larvae eventually travel to the new dog's heart where they mature and complete the life cycle by producing new worms.

Alarmingly, by the time symptoms of heartworm appear, the effects on internal organs may be too advanced to be treated. Or, if it's not too late, a lengthy treatment program could be necessary.

Typical signs of the disease are chronic cough, laboured breathing, premature fatigue, general lack of energy and heart attack after exertion.

Dr. Hawkins said the threat of heartworm is real during the mosquito season.

"We know it's around. Last year there were 500 cases in Ontario in dogs."

A simple blood test conducted by a veterinarian can quickly determine whether a dog is infected. If it isn't, a preventive program should be initiated as soon as possible, Dr. Hawkins said.

"We encourage all dog owners to have their dogs tested annually in the spring and started on prevention."

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