

Golden notes from junior jazz band

The Halton Junior Jazz Ensemble is as good as gold.

The band recently brought home a gold medal from the 25th anniversary celebration of Musicfest Canada Hull, Quebec.

Comprised of 15 grade 7 and 8 music students from Halton, the band was among the youngest of 11,000 Musicfest participants from across the country, said Deborah Coulombe, an adult volunteer with the group.

Under the direction of Burlington teachers Carolyn Lewis and Jane Wamsley, the ensemble performed at one of five theatres in the Museum of Civilization before a panel of adjudicators.

"This marks a very successful first trip to the prestigious national competition since the inception of the ensemble in 1990," Ms Coulombe said.

An individual honour award was given to drummer Shaun

Staples of Milton's W.I. Dick School.

A total of nine members of the group are music students of Jeanette Wilson at W.I. Dick. They also include Cam Cashmore (bass guitar), Brendan Coulombe (keyboards), Carley Dobson (trombone), Andrew Hunt (trombone), Lyndsey Jones (tenor saxophone), Carley Jukes (trumpet), Jessica Simpson (trumpet) and Jennifer Wallace (alto saxophone).

The ensemble was invited to participate at Musicfest after winning a silver medal at the Niagara Regional Musicfest in February.

The public will have a final opportunity to hear this year's band during the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary's Strawberry Fair on the hospital grounds Saturday at 10:45 a.m.



Milton athlete Ryan Leworthy is starting the western portion of his fundraising tour.

Tour heads west

Wheelchair athlete Ryan Leworthy and his father Mike arrived in Vancouver last night to start the western part of their fundraising cross-country tour.

The Milton father and son team are in the midst of Tour '97, which kicked off May 3 at the Toronto Science Centre under pouring rain.

The pair's goal is to raise \$1 million for the Link Foundation started by the Leworthys in 1992.

The non-profit organization was founded to generate an awareness of the disabled and their families' needs and to help create opportunities for inclusion in community sports, fitness and recreation.

Last week the duo completed their tour of eastern Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, where they were the first and only cyclists to cross the new Confederation Bridge to P.E.I.

They plan to bike 90 to 100 kilometers a day and are expected back in Toronto at the end of August after biking some 7,000 km.

Ryan, 20, born with spina bifida, is riding an excelerator, a specially designed hand-cranked cycle.

Donations are being collected along the route or through the Link Foundation line (1-800-399-8251).



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