'Sauce Boss' will cook up some blues at the Hardball

What's being called the biggest international music festival in Halton's history will be staged July 10 to 19.

The Halton Region Blues and Roots Festival will take place at 14 locations, including Milton's Hardball Cafe on Hwy. 25.

Bill 'the Sauce Boss' Wharton, known for his southern gumbo rock and blues, will perform at the Hardball Cafe Saturday, July 18.

The Florida native is an animated entertainer, said festival co-ordinator Joe Pinto.

"He cooks a pot of gumbo on the stage while the band plays on and he feeds the audience at the end of the show."

Other feature performances in Norval, Georgetown and Acton will be staged by Eric Burdon, Downchild, the Royal Crowns and Jack Dekeyzer (July 16); Shirley King (July 19); 'Wild Child' Butler (July 17); and Maureen Brown and Big Hand (July 10).

About a dozen other bands will also perform throughout the festival.

Many of the shows are free, while some have cover charges, Mr. Pinto said.

"Most of the artists are recording acts. All display world class talent and showmanship." Admission to Georgetown shows will

require a non-perishable item for a food drive. Also, a portion of the proceeds from festival souvenir sales will go to the Johnny V Band. The Canadian bluesman and his band members were in a serious car crash last May.

"Some of the artists have been in critical condition," Mr. Pinto said. "The van and lots of expensive vintage equipment are gone."

For show information, call the festival line at 873-9655.



Blues player Bill Wharton will be at the Hardball Saturday, July 18.

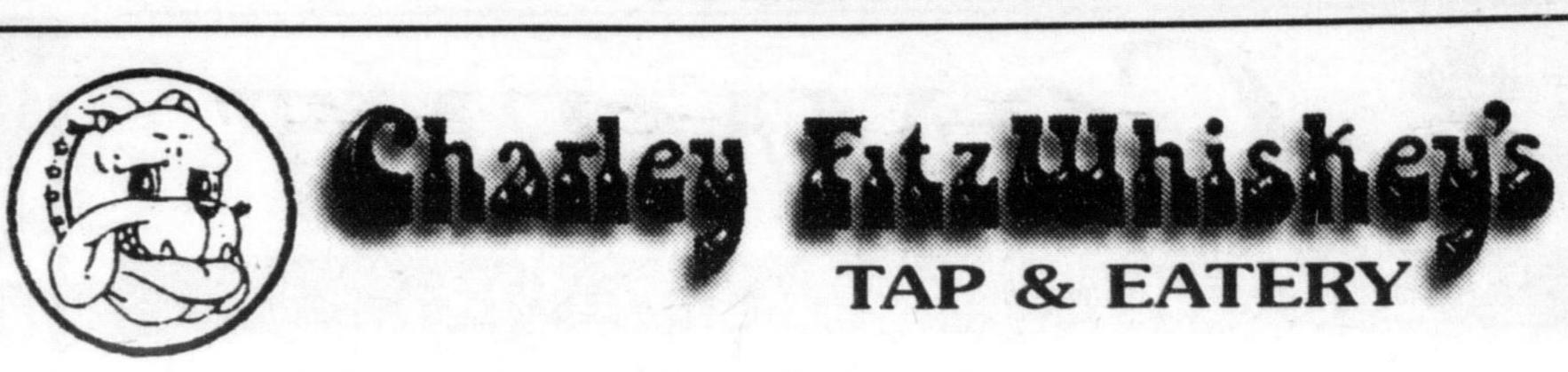
Drop-in program

Resource Centre hosts a tion and Tuesdays and summer drop-in program for Thursdays at the Childs children and their parents.

The program is held Mondays and Fridays at the more information.

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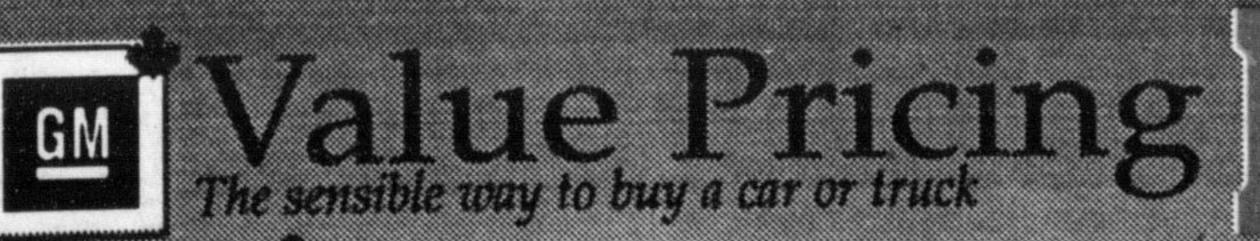
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