

# Praise and pride wash over trio in silent, sustained waves

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
The Champion

**E**.C. Drury students couldn't hear the applause, but relished every second of it all the same.

With overwhelming approval from both the audience and judges' panel, a trio of teens from Milton's deaf school were the toast of this year's International Creative Arts Festival — held April 8 to 11 in Northbrook, Illinois.

Under the direction of coach Patti Trofimenkoff, all three of the students took top honours in their age groups. This clean sweep was the latest in a long series of arts awards for the local school.

"I'm very proud of them. They all did such a fantastic job," said the school's drama teacher and longtime coordinator of the 'Dancing Hands' chorus. "It was hard to believe how well they did, even as it was unrolling in front of me."

Ms Trofimenkoff's daughter Valerie and Lisa Astrom — a Rotary Club International exchange student from Sweden — were partners in the 15 and over class and won for their dancing interpretation of Bette Midler's 'Rose'.

Recalled Valerie, "We knew we needed to be cool up on stage but were kind of nervous anyway. I was right behind Lisa at one point and could feel her shaking. But besides starting a little earlier than the music everything went pretty good."

Lisa said she was shocked when the duo's videotape — sent to the festival's qualifying committee earlier this year — was deemed best in Region 3, which comprises Ontario as well as 13 American states.

"We hadn't been practising together for very long so it was so exciting when we got the call about winning," she said.

To say the least, that thrill was magnified several times over when they actually competed at the international showcase and came out on top.

Through American Sign Language

(ASL) and interpretative dance steps, the girls illustrated a flower blooming and made the popular love song come alive through a visual scope rather than a vocal one.

"The idea was to make the audience and judges understand the message, that flowers are like love," added Lisa, who goes back to her homeland at the end of the school year.

Meanwhile, Vance Youngs didn't so much inspire onlookers as he did mesmerize them.

The enthusiastic youth used card tricks and many other acts of illusion to wow the crowd and finish in a first-place tie with a teen from London in the 12 to 14 year division.

"There was an American guy in my group who had won the festival seven times in a row. When I found that out I got a little paranoid," admitted Vance, whose showmanship landed him a role in the HBO movie Dead Silence a few years back with well known deaf actress Marlee

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

E.C. Drury School for the Deaf students (clockwise from left) Lisa Astrom, Valerie Trofimenkoff and Vance Youngs show off their ribbons.



Jacqueline Bass

## GRADE "A" NEWS AT MILTON DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ADVERTISEMENT



Marissa Cheskey

Grade "A" News at MDHS  
By Jacqueline Bass and Marissa Cheskey

To start off this week we would like to update you, our readers, on the sports here at M.D.H.S. As you are probably aware, many teams begin as spring approaches. Softball, Baseball, and Girls' and Boys' Soccer are starting. Boys' Rugby has also started and the practices for the guys are being held after school. Track and Field is starting now as well, since we managed to find a coach and practices are held after school. Newcomers are always welcome, so get on your running gear or your jumping shoes and come on out.

Speaking of sports, the Cheerleaders have a major competition approaching. The Ontario's will be held on May 7th, 8th and 9th in Kingston. The team is working hard to prepare for this competition by having 2 practices during the school week at 6:30 a.m. and their regular 3-hour Sunday practices. Good Luck!

Have you been surfing the net lately? Well, the Information Technologies class students are each making their own websites. Pretty neat! These websites are not yet posted on the net, but could be in the future, so keep surfing!

The Prom Committee has been busy doing fund-raisers and thinking of ways to raise money for the upcoming Prom. They recently held the Senior Auction and a Bake Sale in the Cafeteria. On May 15th the Prom Committee will be having a huge, gigantic, mondo-sized Garage Sale. It will start at 8:00 a.m. and will go until 1:00 p.m. All students are welcome to contribute various items that are no longer of use to you. So get in your closets and dig out those outfits that are so 5 years ago. Remember, your junk could be someone else's treasure. Stay tuned to find out when and where to make your contribution. The Prom will be held on June 30th at "The Atrium" in Burlington.

Last but not least, we would just like to remind all those parents out there about report cards. They were distributed on April 22nd; that's right - yesterday! Sorry to any students who are still in denial, but you'll have to face reality sooner or later. Thanks and remember to read next week!



## DATELINE DRURY AT E.C. DRURY HIGH SCHOOL ADVERTISEMENT



Dateline Drury - April 23, 1999  
by Jessica Wellstead and Katie Murzin

Welcome to another exciting week of Dateline Drury! In this week's news: sports, sports and more sports!

On Tuesday, April 6, the grade 11 outdoor education class participated in the first annual EcoChallenge. The purpose of the activity was to test outdoor skills, enhance environmental awareness, improve problem solving techniques and encourage trust and co-operation skills. The event, organized by John Sinclair and Leigha Haller, was held at the Nassageweya Canyon and involved caving, ropes courses and rock-climbing. Congratulations to all those who were able to complete the challenge and hopefully the event will be held again next year so more students can test their prowess in the outdoors!

In other news, the Student Athletic Society (SAS) is organizing this year's athletic fund-raiser: The Spartan Sports Blitz! The event runs at the school from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, 1999. The day will be filled with organized games and sports held both indoors and outdoors. The Spartan Sports Blitz is a fund-raiser for this year's athletic banquet and students must raise a minimum of \$10 to participate. Also, any student who raises over \$20 will receive a free ticket to the athletic banquet in June. All interested students are encouraged to attend, regardless of athletic ability.

Next, we are pleased to announce this month's Athletes of the Month. The male athlete for the month of March is Kevin Heffron. Kevin is a role model to Drury athletes and the school community not only because of his athletic ability but because of his excellent sportsmanship. He won gold medals in wrestling at both the Halton's and GHAC but lost his championship match at OFSAA by protest. Congratulations Kevin on your achievements and on being March's male Athlete of the Month!

March's female athlete of the month is Marion Jamieson. Her participation and leadership on this year's midget girls volleyball team was important to the team's success this season. Marion excelled offensively and her hitting and blocking made her an asset to the team. Congratulations Marion, and keep up the good work!

On a non-athletic note, Justin Billingham has been named March's student of the month. We'll have a more detailed look at why next week in Dateline Drury.

There you have it; another week at Drury. Thanks for reading and we hope to see you back next week for a new edition of Dateline Drury.

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