

Boers returns from challenging Grand Canyon trek for charity

By **IRENE GENTLE**
The Champion

When a small town man takes on the elements in a gritty attempt to raise money for children of the world, people want to know what happened.

That's why Ries Boers has spent the better part of June attempting to answer questions about his brutal and life-altering hike through the Grand Canyon last month.

The idea was to turn an extreme vacation into a fundraiser for the Rotary Club's Polio Plus program, which aims to clear the preventable disease from the planet.

His efforts raised almost \$3,000, an amount that will be matched by Rotary International.

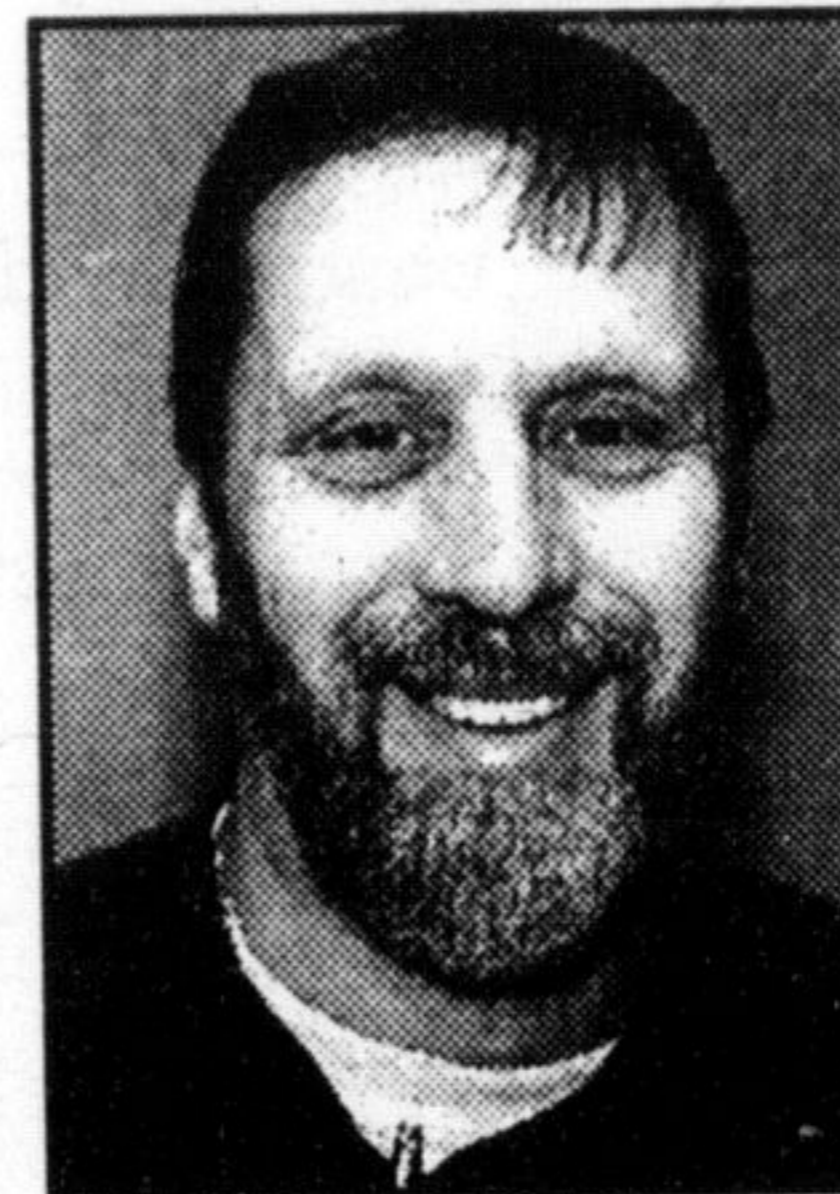
The hike, since you all asked, was by turns hot, hard, humbling and hellish.

It began at the crack of dawn with the temperature hovering at a reasonable 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15 Celsius). By the time they got to the bottom of the canyon, it was a sizzling 100 F (37 C). And before the day was over, the 23 km rim-to-rim hike would get hotter than Hades.

Temporary solace was found in the icy waters of the Colorado River, which would like liniment to a wound on the canyon floor.

But with humidity a dust-dry 7 per cent, the water evaporated almost as soon as the nine person crew entered Bright Angel Creek Canyon.

"That was like hell. Oh, it was brutal," recalled Mr. Boers. Trouble, unsurprisingly, struck in the form of heat stroke. Two



Ries Boers

hikers were felled by it. As they did, the temperature continued to soar, reaching 120 F, (or an inconceivable 48 C).

"It's like walking in an oven," said Mr. Boers. "It's dry as a cork."

But the experience left him with something bigger than the bragging rights earned by descending into a seething cauldron and emerging unscathed.

Like the certainty of how fragile man's hard-earned comforts are amidst the majesty of nature de-fanged.

"You walk out there and all the corners are sharp. If you fall you hurt yourself and if the heat goes up, you fry," he said. "You don't mess with mother nature, is what it boils down to."

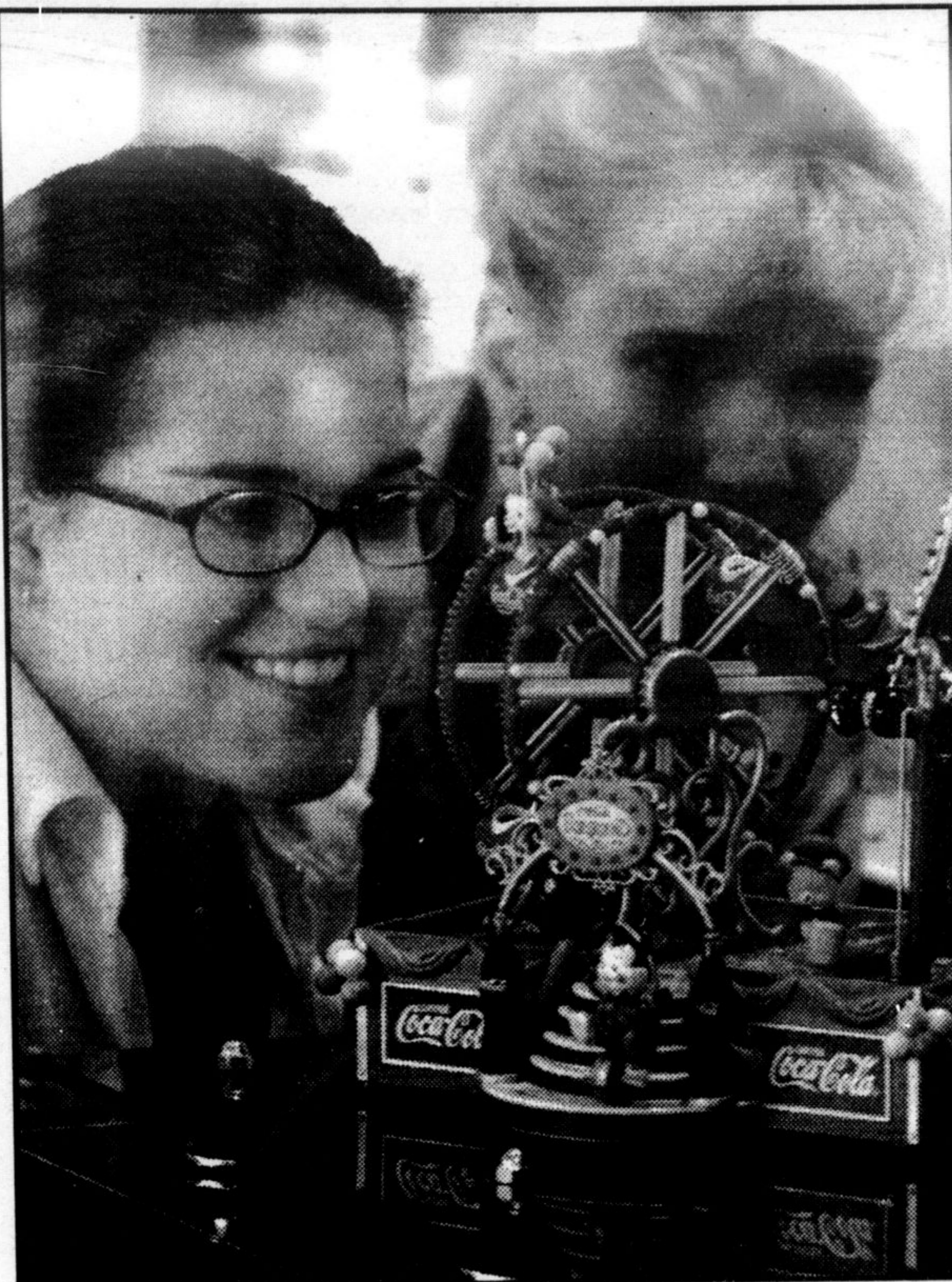


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Tiny treasures

Cindy Larocque (left) and Michelle Ducharme stop to admire the tiny music boxes that are part of the Ontario Conservatory of Music's miniature display at Milton Mall. The display can be seen until Sunday.

Caribbean festival held this Sunday

Caribbean culture will flow through Country Heritage Park Sunday.

That's when the local tourist site, formerly the Milton Farm Museum on Tremaine Road, will host the first annual Canada Salutes Icons 2000.

The Caribbean heritage festival will be highlighted with a 3 p.m. awards presentation honouring Dr. Louise Bennett-Coverley, OJ, and Winston "Merritone" Blake, OD — ambassadors for Jamaican culture.

Mayor Gord Krantz will be on hand for opening ceremonies at 11 a.m.

Live music, a domino tournament, mid-way rides, face painting, relay races, storytelling and pony rides will be featured throughout the day.

Finishing things off at dusk will be a dance to soulful sounds of the Merritone Soundstation — celebrating its 50th anniversary this year — in the historic Gambrel Barn.

Think
Spring

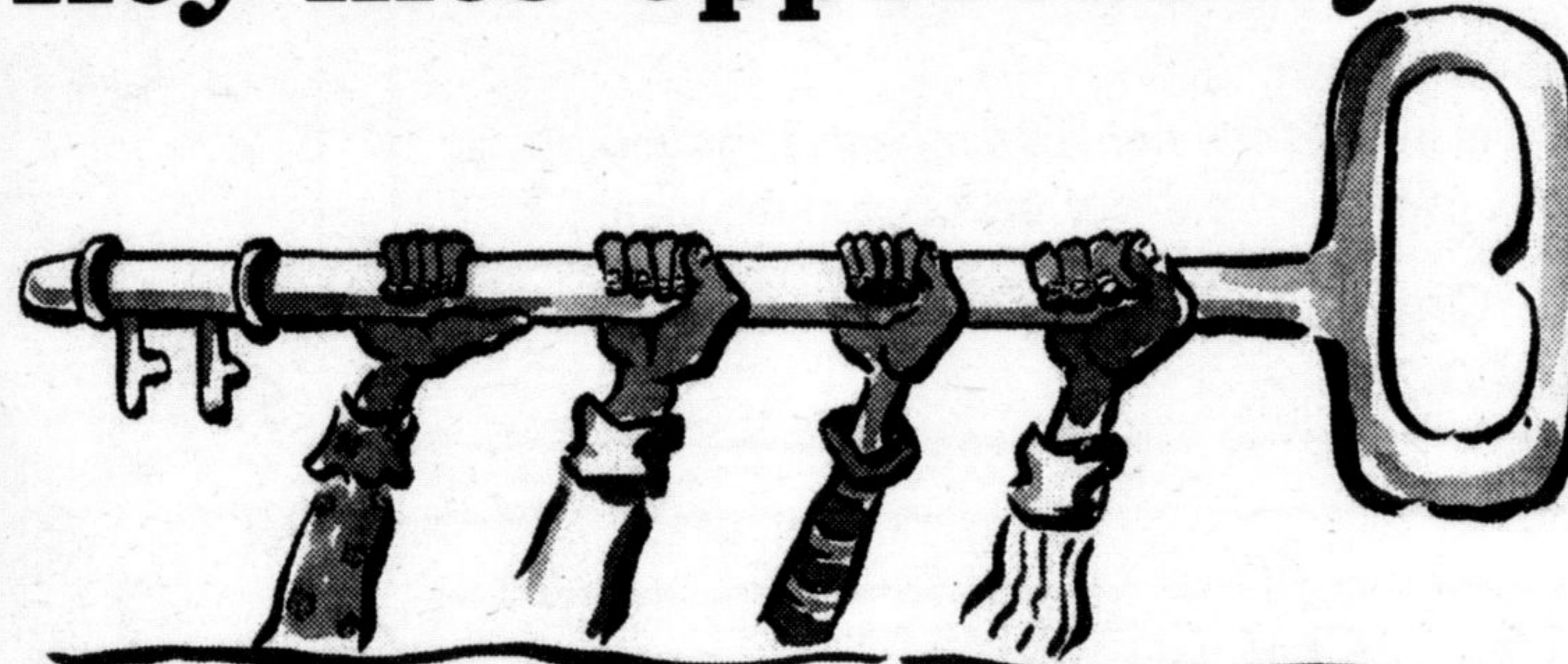
Clean out the closet for Amity Goodwill.

Please take your extra clothing and household items to the Amity Goodwill store close to you.

Ask about our Tax Receipt program
Lisa and her team are eager to help you
55 Ontario Street South

GOODWILL
THE AMITY GROUP

Key into opportunity...



Summer Jobs Partnership
get a summer job.

Human Resource Centre of Canada for Students

310 Main St. East
(905) 878-8418, ext. 222
Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Summer Jobs Service — Sheridan College

310 Main St. East
From Milton call:
(905) 845-9430 ext. 8144
From Georgetown/Acton call:
(905) 459-7533 ext. 8144
Wednesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

www.sheridanc.on.ca/services/summerjobs/ <http://jobbank.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca>

Working together to help students find summer employment.

Sheridan

THE YMCA OF
HAMILTON/BURLINGTON

Youth
Employment
Strategy
Strategic
employment
partnership

Canada

Students

We can help you find a summer job. Summer Jobs Partnership will assist you with:

- job leads
- résumé writing
- interview skills
- self-marketing techniques

Our resource centres have computers, Internet access, printers, job postings, job banks and faxing.



NO COST - NO OBLIGATION IN-HOME EVALUATION!

Our Trained home comfort consultants will come to your home and evaluate your central air needs and requirements. All at NO COST and with NO OBLIGATION. Furthermore, prior to installation we will perform a certified heat gain calculation to ensure accurate sizing requirements. OUR GOALS ARE TO SATISFY YOUR HOME COMFORT AND GIVE YOU EXCEPTIONAL VALUE.

NO PAYMENTS UNTIL JULY 2001*

*OAC see Dealer for details

THE "SELECT" SERVICE TEAM

Providing customers with:

- Experience (20 years each)
- Factory trained
- Competitive prices
- Quality installation
- Warranty
- Guaranteed customer satisfaction



John Little, Joel Taggart and Shaughn Butler

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM MON-FRI 9-5, SAT 9:30-4
4361 Harvester Rd.
(between Appleby & Walkers Line)
(905) 632-1377

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM MON-FRI 10-9, SAT 9:30-6
Georgetown Marketplace Mall
(905) 876-1020



© TM Trademark of AIR MILES International Holdings N.V. Used under license by Loyalty Management Group Canada, Inc. and Enbridge Services Inc. Now earn one AIR MILES reward mile for every \$20 spent on eligible products and services with Enbridge Home Services.