

Festival to celebrate Canada Day, Caribbean heritage

Canada Salutes Icons 2003 cultural festival here

Milton won't seem much like Milton at all next week as the strains of Caribbean music fill the Halton Golf and Country Inn.

At noon June 29, the gates will open and the Canada Salutes Icons 2003 cultural festival will begin at 1 p.m.

Canada Salutes Icons is a three-fold celebration, recognizing Canada Day, the new millennium and Caribbean heritage. It does this through

music and cultural arts with a focus on youth, family and community.

Highlights of the family event include the evening's cultural icons awards presentation. The awards are given to individuals who have made significant contributions to Caribbean cultural heritage at an international level.

The event will also feature a Caribbean, African and Canadian marketplace.

Ongoing activities will include live steel pan music, domino games, face painting, relay races, story-telling and volleyball. Plus, one person at the event will win a trip to a Caribbean destination.

The event is hosted under the distinguished patronage of the Jamaican Consul General, Vivia Betteon. Mayor Gord Krantz will participate in the award presentation at 6 p.m.

Another highlight is the Louise Bennett Award, which is established by proceeds from

the Icons event. It will be granted to a second or third year music major who demonstrates exceptional promise and achievement in world music studies and who's in financial need.

The Halton Golf and Country Inn is located at 9196 Sixth Line.

For ticket information, to volunteer at the event or to secure a vending booth at the marketplace, call (905) 501-7140.

Tickets are also available through Ticket Master.

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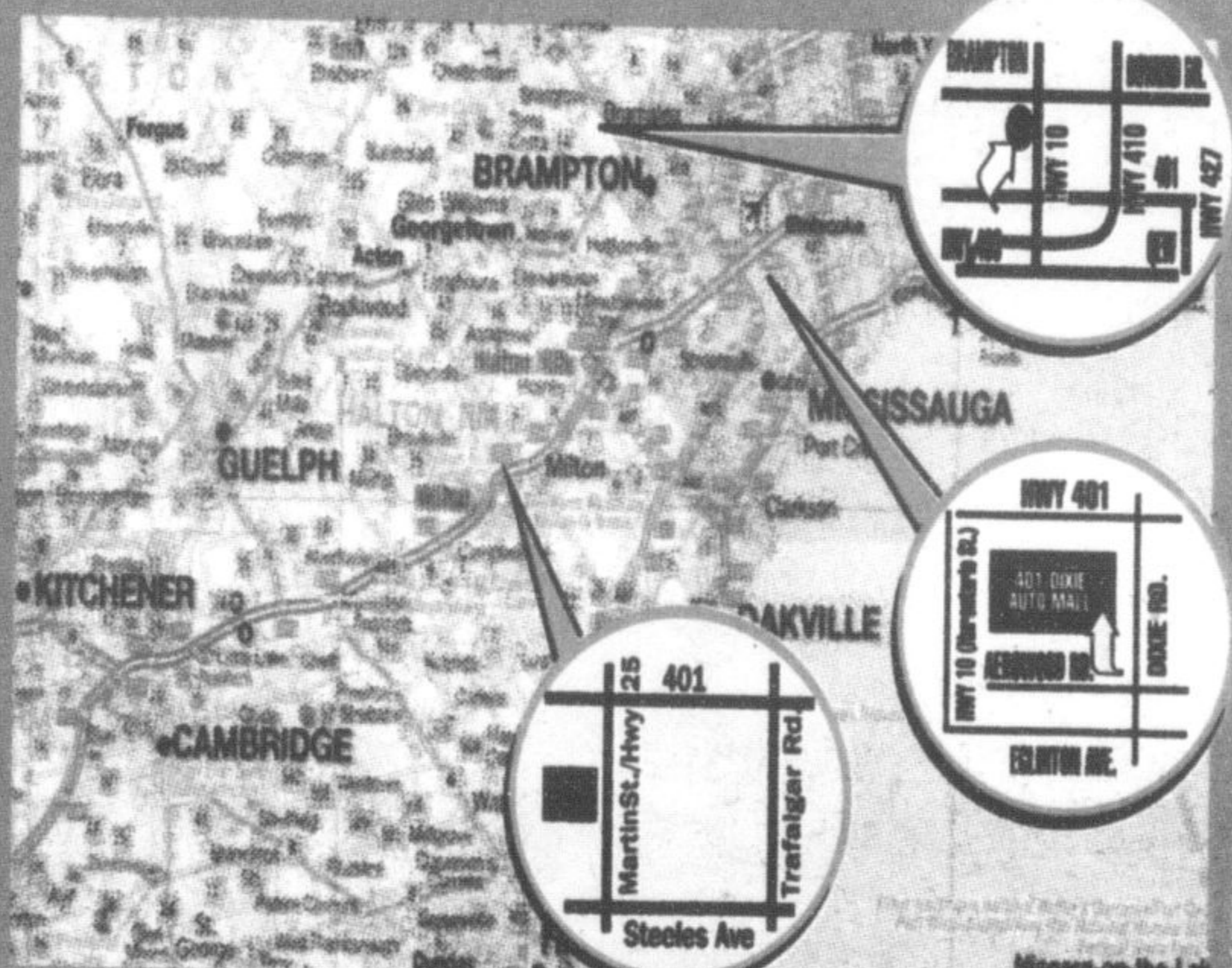
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New drama club geared for students 10-18 years

Lights, camera, action.

Some of Milton's young people may be one step closer to their dreams of pursuing careers in musical theatre with the arrival of Milton Youth Theatre Productions.

And Milton residents are invited to attend its first information and registration night June 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Milton Leisure Centre.

Milton Youth Theatre Productions is geared towards students aged 10 to 18 years old.

Director Kim Belvedere, a Milton resident, taught dance locally for more than 20 years but decided it was time for a change, she said, adding that she also saw a need for a theatre production.

Classes will begin in September and will provide drama, vocal and musical theatre workshops taught by industry professionals. Each student will perform in a year-

end live theatre production.

There's no auditioning to get into the program — something unique to Milton Youth Theatre Productions. Ms Belvedere said she wanted all young people to have a chance to pursue musical theatre, whether or not they've done it before.

"We want to encourage kids and let them do what they want to do," she said.

Classes will be held for one-and-a-half hours each week.

Ms Belvedere's team includes Christine Houle as producer and Donna Ervasti as set-design co-ordinator.

"We are excited about this new opportunity and are focused on promoting the total theatre experience to Milton's youth," Ms Belvedere said.

For more information, call (905) 875-7674.

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