

Arts & Entertainment

Students awarded trophies at piano recital

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

A combination of excitement and tension filled the air as nervous students shuffled music and parents fidgeted in their seats.

It was November 27 — the twice yearly recital held by the Milton Music Teachers' Association for their students. And the students — ranging in age from 6 to about 19

— were ready to strut their stuff.

"The kids playing are always a bit nervous, but they're comfortable because Milton audiences make them comfortable," said association secretary Norma Luyben, who's been teaching piano with the association for 20 years.

The evening saw the recital combined with a trophy presentation for the students who placed the highest in the Royal Conservatory or Conservatory Canada exams.

A highlight of the evening, Ms Luyben said, was when several students played pieces they had composed themselves.

Ms Luyben said the association has been holding twice-annual trophy presentations for many years and said it's an added incentive for the students to do well on their exams.

And, she said, parents love being able to watch their kids perform in a fairly relaxed atmosphere that doesn't terrify the young performers.

The Milton Music Teachers' Association, a non-profit organization, has about 25 independent music teachers in its ranks.

Ms Luyben said it's great that students of the group's members are able to come together and perform. It gives them more confidence in their abilities, she said.

"The more they play, the more comfortable they get. That's why recitals are ideal."

It also means students have the chance to play on the association's six-foot grand



From front left are Heather Wolf, Esther Gomes, Samuel Ganton, Carl Steinhauser and Jennifer Schwartz. From back left are Kristin Williams, Laura Stratton, Tim Smith, Britianna Fitzsimmons, Jonathan Borrelli, Miranda Fragomeni and Vanessa Nickel. Photo by CHANTAL AYOTTE

piano at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, which is no small thrill.

There's nothing quite like watching her students perform, Ms Luyben said, explaining that she gets to see her work come to fruition.

"The smile at the end (of their performances) is worth a thousand bucks. The self-satisfaction they get is amazing."

Ms Luyben said it's also useful for teachers to see what areas students need to work on, since sometimes what sticks in the living room doesn't hold up under the pressure of a recital performance or — more importantly — an exam.

The following were the evening's trophy winners:

- May — theory
- Preliminary rudiments — Leah Fast, 99 per cent
- Grade one rudiments — Laura Stratton, 100 per cent
- Grade two rudiments — Jonathan Borrelli, Carolyn Hummel, Kristin Williams, 100 per cent
- Grade three harmony — Tim Smith, 84 per cent
- Grade three history — Jennifer Schwartz, 95 per cent

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Arts Milton gratefully acknowledges the support of the Town of Milton Community Fund.

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Correction

A story published in last Friday's issue of The Champion incorrectly quoted Laura Jeffrey, founder and director of Women of Note, as saying Rosanne Warren is one of the best accompanists in Milton.

She was actually referring to Dawn Brodie as one of the town's best accompanists.

The Champion apologizes for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

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