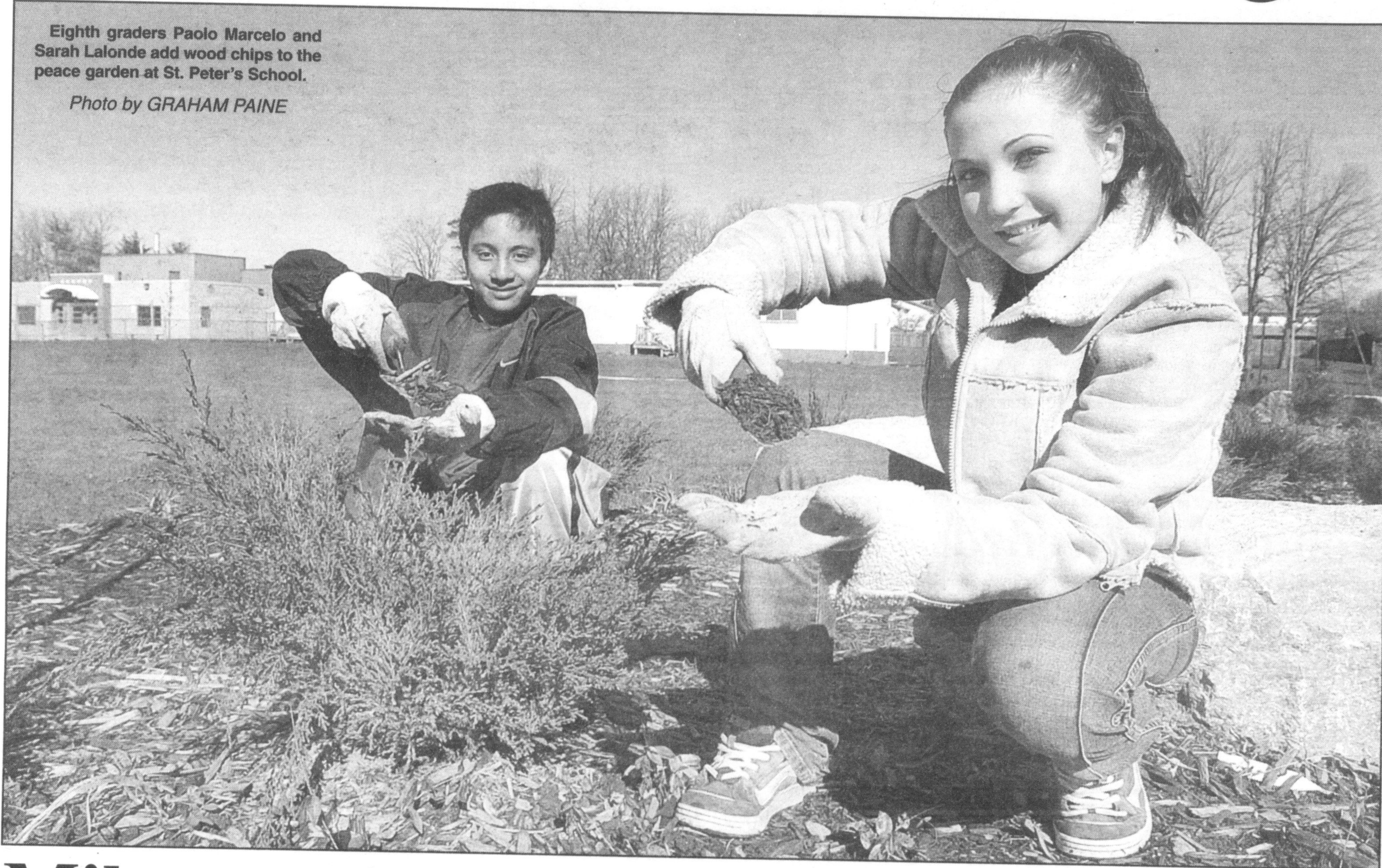




Community Page

Eighth graders Paolo Marcelo and Sarah Lalonde add wood chips to the peace garden at St. Peter's School.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



Milestone is marked with peace garden

St. Peter's takes green thumb approach to celebrating 25th year

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

According to traditionalists, a 25th anniversary should yield gifts of silver.

But for students, parents and teachers of St. Peter's Separate School, dirt, plants and even the odd worm or two are a much better way to commemorate such an important occasion.

They decided that planting a peace garden was

the best way to celebrate the school's quarter-century milestone.

"This is a benefit to the entire community," said Frank Cleare, principal at St. Peter's, now that the garden's nearly done.

But as organizers quickly found out, peace gardens aren't created overnight. The project was in the works for a couple of years before a shovel even touched the soil, Mr. Cleare noted.

"We've been dreaming of such an idea for the past three years," he said.

The first two stages involved digging and planting larger trees. The third — which will happen this summer — will see smaller shrubs and plants put in place.

The work has all been done by students, their parents and teachers, and plants chosen are

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FRANK CLEARE

species native to the Milton area.

The garden is already quite popular with the students, Mr. Cleare said, and a schedule dictates when each grade gets to use it. After school, it's open to the public.

The idea, he said, is the garden will provide a peaceful place for students to sit and chat or reflect.

Some of the challenges, he said, have been getting the necessary approvals and funds. A grant from the Town's Community Fund helped.

Grade three teacher Lisa Pietila — who's been involved with the project since day one — said it's been a partnership between the school and the school council.

Now that the garden is nearly finished, Ms Pietila said she's "blown away".

"I'm thrilled with its progress," she said, adding the peace garden will be a place where students can learn about the environment.

"My class has asked to come and do an art project there," she said, adding, "We could talk about all different things."

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Programming Schedule — Tuesday, May 11 - Monday, May 17, 2004

Tuesday, May 11		Wednesday, May 12		Thursday, May 13		Friday, May 14		Saturday, May 15		Sunday, May 16		Monday, May 17	
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30 pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition
5:30pm	Seniors Showcase	5:30pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton	5:30pm	Osler Health Connection	8:00pm	HCDSB: Sharing The Spirit Awards (2004)			5:30pm	Be Inspired	5:30pm	State of the Region Address
6:30pm	Optimist TV Bingo (Live)	6:30pm	Be Inspired	6:30pm	Money Week					6:30pm	Seniors Showcase	6:30pm	Faces - Milton Community Awards
8:00pm	Halton Hills Council - May 3	7:00pm	Swap Talk (Live)	7:00pm	The Issue Is...					7:00pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton Money Week	7:00pm	Be Inspired
		8:00pm	Halton Region Council - May 12	8:00pm	"The Grate Groan Up Spelling Bee"					8:00pm	Faces - Milton Community Awards	8:00pm	SportsZONE Live (Live)
										8:30pm	HCDSB: Sharing The Spirit Awards (2004)	8:00pm	"The Grate Groan Up Spelling Bee"
										9:00pm		9:00pm	

"The Grate Groan Up Spelling Bee" Thursday, 9:30pm & Monday, 9:00pm