

Frustrated shower singers sought

• from CHORUS on page 12

He said many of the Song Spinners' members sing in their church choirs, but the Song Spinners offers them a chance to sing different sorts of music.

With wide-ranging abilities and ages ranging from the mid-fifties to the eighties, director Joyce Hayward has her hands full making sure everything goes smoothly.

In her role as director since the formation of the chorus, Ms Hayward said the group started out as a choral club in 1994. The idea was that seniors who enjoyed singing would come together once each week for a sing-along.

But they gradually morphed into a choir that now sings four-part, "fairly advanced" music, Ms Hayward said.

"The first time we got together, there were about 10 to 12 singers. Now we're in our 40s," she said, adding, "I don't feel we should audition members. If they don't read music or know how to sing, they can learn to do it. We're not

elitist."

The 12 men in the group have really "developed a talent for satire and comedy," Ms Hayward said, explaining although sounding good is important, so is having fun. "We have a good sense of humour."

She added it's her belief that music is a natural age defyer. "We're all young at heart," she said.

As for Mr. White, his role as president really has its perks, he said, laughing.

"It means I get to tell 35 women what to wear at our concerts."

He said it's only been in the past few years that he began to sing. But now that he has, he can't shut up.

"I waited until I was well into my senior years to start (singing) because I didn't have the confidence," he said.

He had a desire to sing in his church choir, but wasn't sure he could do it — so he joined the Song Spinners.

"They gave me the confidence," he said, adding he's now also a

member of the St. Paul's United Church choir.

Unlike Mr. White, Ms Benton said she's been singing for as long as she can remember — beginning at the very church in which she was practising Wednesday morning, St. Paul's United Church.

A lifetime Milton resident, Ms Benton — who's been a member of the Spinners for about five years — said the best part of being a Song Spinner is the fellowship with the other members.

Seniors 55 and older are welcome to join the choir, Mr. White said, sending out a special invite to "frustrated shower singers."

The group practises at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre every Wednesday from 9:15 a.m. until noon.

For more information or concert tickets, call the seniors' centre at (905) 875-1681.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Men to Boys in concert June 12

Men to Boys will present a concert next month at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr.

The concert will take place June 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets, which cost \$15, are available at Delacourt's, at the corner of Main and Martin streets, Peggy's of Milton at Milton Mall and at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre.

Ticket can also be purchased by calling (905) 878-1331.

Family fun at track

Back by popular demand, Mohawk Racetrack's Family Fireworks event will be held Sunday.

In celebration of the holiday weekend and held in conjunction with a special card of harness racing, the evening festival will feature a variety of children's activities — including face painting, carnival games and petting horses.

Helping highlight the night will be Fire Culture of the Islands, a dancing and fire-eating ensemble.

Headlining action on the track will be two \$130,000 Ontario Sires Stakes Gold Series championships for three-year-old trotting fillies and three-year-old trotting colts.

The evening will end with a fireworks display.

Doors open at 5 p.m. Both admission and parking are free.

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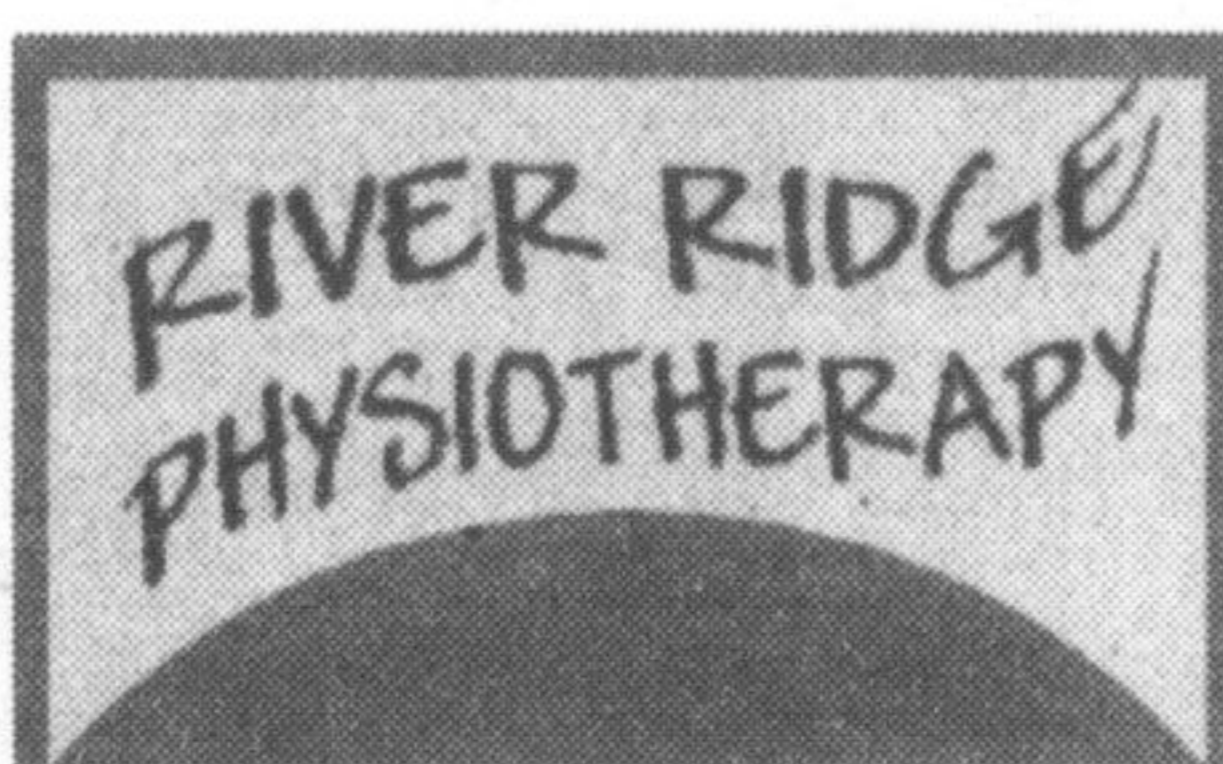
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