

Arts & Entertainment



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Man of mystery

Illusionist Ted Outerbridge and assistant Marion Hinz dazzle the audience Sunday afternoon at Main Street's Milton Bible Church auditorium during their Magical Moments in Time show, part of the Children's Hour series.

Local Chinese New Year festival coming

Majestic lion dance will highlight event

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Chances are you've seen bits and pieces of the traditional Chinese lion dance, with its colourful costumes, dynamic drum beat and artful movements.

But how much do you really know about it?

February 19 at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., the Canadian Taijiquan Federation is providing a free opportunity for Miltonians to take in the dramatic dance and learn about its purpose and origins at its first ever Chinese New Year's Festival.

With this past Wednesday marking Chinese New Year, Miltonian Vic Benjamin, president of the Canadian Taijiquan Federation, said there's no better time to witness the majestic lion dance — and maybe learn a thing or two that could mark the beginning of a whole new journey.

The demonstration will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. by Robin Young and Guelph's Jing Mo Kung Fu Club.

The lion dance, Mr. Benjamin said, is a celebration that combines martial arts, cultural mythology and performing arts. In Chinese mythology, the lion is believed to be brought down from the heavens to bring prosperity and good fortune to the people.

Lion dancers have the task of capturing the mood of the lion, Mr. Benjamin said — no easy feat. Drumming creates spirit and strength in the dance, he added.

"It's a celebration of New Year's — it's a good luck dance, bringing prosperity and good fortune to the people of the community," Mr. Benjamin said, adding even though it's a dance, it's a form of martial arts.

"It's a celebration of New Year's — it's a good luck dance, bringing prosperity and good fortune to the people of the community."

VIC BENJAMIN

Those with a deeper interest in Taijiquan — more commonly known as Tai Chi — are invited to join the group for the entire day, which will include Tai Chi workshops and demonstrations given by various teachers. The cost is \$50.

The event is a fundraiser for the Canadian Taijiquan Federation, which is a non-profit organization designed to promote the practise of all styles of Taijiquan.

The workshops will begin at 9 a.m., and a bring-your-own indoor picnic lunch will take place at noon.

Starting at 6 p.m., there'll be a New Year's banquet at the Lido Restaurant on

• see TAI CHI on page B2

Raxx

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