Concert a fundraiser for Rotary humanitarian work

By Stephanie Thiessen CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

ast month, Miltonian Dale Devlin traveled to Mexico to help distribute wheelchairs to people who needed them but couldn't afford them.

A member of the Rotary Club of Milton, Devlin had been involved with the club's fundraising efforts for the wheelchairs and decided he wanted to go a step further and help with their delivery. Not surprisingly, it was an experience he'll never forget.

"To be there to see someone receive something from a donation is quite moving," said Devlin, who made the trip with his wife, Mary.

Not everyone is able to go to another country to distribute wheelchairs. But an upcoming concert to raise more funds for wheelchairs will allow Milton residents to partner with the Rotary Club in their efforts.

July 8 at 8 p.m., the Rotary Club of Milton and Just Milton Folks will present main hall at Milton Bible Church, 200 Main St. Tickets to the 'Summer Dreams' concert

cost \$25 each, and include refreshments.

Devlin said the Rotary Club hopes to raise the remaining \$3,000 for the wheelchairs delivered.

A wheelchair delivered to a third-world country costs \$850. But \$125 raised by the Rotary Club of Milton is enough for a wheelchair because it's matched by Rotary International and The Wheelchair Foundation.

Thanks to the Milton club, Devlin was able to help distribute 200 wheelchairs.

Dave Hadfield, brother of astronaut Chris Hadfield, grew up in Milton and now lives near Barrie. He formed his folk music group four years ago. A commercial pilot, Hadfield writes songs that reflect the Canadian culture with both humour and poignancy.

His vocals and guitar-playing are accompanied in concert by Jerry Levine on fiddle, Liz Levine on celtic-style drums and Johanne Fischer on harmonies.

His flavour is distinctly Ontarian, with songs that bridge east cost, French Canadian Dave Hadfield and Friends in concert in the and prairie styles in a way that reflects our diverse population.

Many of his songs take the form of sto-

July 8 at 8 p.m., the Rotary Club of Milton and Just Milton Folks will present Dave Hadfield and Friends in concert in the main hall at Milton Bible Church, 200 Main St.

ries, some arising from his wilderness jour-

"My music is (largely) about the land. I don't generally write about the standard pop themes," Hadfield said. "I write about contemporary and historical events and things that have happened to people all across this place."

Hadfield's grandmother was in a wheelchair, so he has a good idea of just how important a cause the concert is supporting.

"A wheelchair is an impossible thing for some people... if you haven't got a wheelchair, you're stuck," he said.

Just Milton Folks is a non-profit venture that brings Canadian musicians to Milton based on the house concert format, in which musicians connect with smaller audiences.

Founder Rose Brooks, who became a Rotarian last year, said she was eager to team up for this fundraiser.

"I thought it was a chance to mix my passion for giving Canadian musicians exposure with theirs for raising money," Brooks said.

Not only is the concert a chance to raise money, it's also a chance for the public to find out more about the Rotary Club of Milton, she added.

Concert tickets are available by calling Brooks at (905) 876-2645 or visiting www.justmiltonfolks.ca.

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