

ARTS

It's party time!

Anniversary street festival runs tomorrow

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

“There's something for everyone”. It's an oft-quoted phrase that seldom lives up to its promise.

But at tomorrow's Downtown Street Party in honour of Milton's 150th anniversary, residents will be hard pressed to find any musical preference passed over when it comes to the entertainment line-up.

“We tried to arrange for a diverse range so everyone finds something to enjoy. When you can go from jazz to rock 'n' roll to opera all within a few steps, that's pretty phenomenal,” said entertainment co-ordinator Donna Danielli.

Plenty of entertainment

The free event, which will run from 2 to 10 p.m., will take place along Main Street from James Street to Millside Drive and will feature six stages taken over by more than 40 performers including bands, soloists, demonstrations and more.

From music to poetry to magic, this anniversary celebration — being put on by the Town of Milton and the Downtown Business Improvement Area — will have it all, Danielli said.

As much as possible, the entertainment committee chose local artists to showcase the talent that exists in Milton, she explained. The stages, featuring nearly non-stop entertainment, will be located at Knox Presbyterian Church, James Street, Martin Street, the Victoria Park gazebo, Fulton Street and St. Paul's United Church.

Opening ceremonies, complete with a cake cutting, will take place at 2 p.m. at the Tim Hortons stage at Main and Martin streets.

The stage at Victoria Park — the Kidz Zone — will be dedicated to family entertainment, where young and old alike can take in a traditional Chinese

lion dance, martial arts demonstration, or magic show from 2 to 6 p.m.

At 2 p.m., the new Milton Concert Band will make its debut performance with a repertoire of children's songs at the Kidz Zone.

“We're very pleased they chose to pick our festival to launch at,” Danielli said.

One of the most notable groups performing — some residents will remember it from its days at the Ontario Renaissance Festival — is the Tartan Terrors, a comedy act known for its unique take on Celtic music and dance.

One band Danielli said she's very excited about is Most Serene Republic, a homegrown band that's been experiencing worldwide success. The group is signed with the Arts and Crafts label, and has toured with the likes of Broken Social Scene, Metric and The Strokes.

This is the band's first show in Milton in more than two years and it'll offer a preview of their new album, which will be released soon.

Danielli also expressed her enthusiasm about Kobo Town, a Toronto band with a calypso twist, and local up-and-comer Steven Demetrious, a country-rock singer.

Wide variety of performances

It's impossible to mention all the artists performing, but the lineup also includes Topp Crime, James Sawyer, the Chris Hadfield Public School Choir, Johnnie and the Phatt Cats and much, much more. “Everyone's been so eager to be part of it and they've said, ‘How can we make this work for you?’ It's the kind of spirit that warms the heart,” Danielli said.

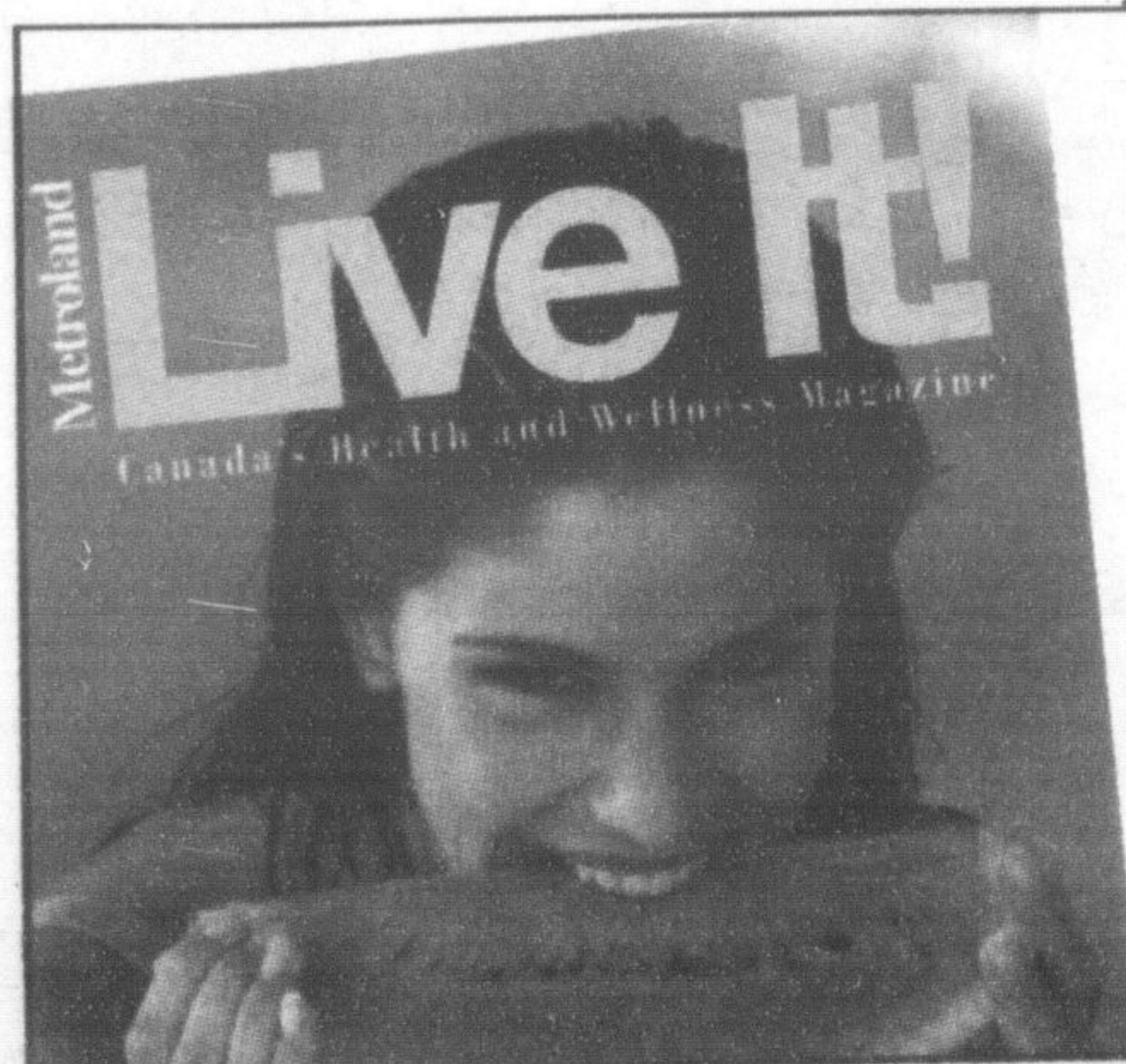
The Arts Milton stage will be located inside St. Paul's church, where residents can get a taste of local talent from 2 to 5 p.m. and see what the organization has to offer. Performing will be Men II Boys, Women of Note, the Milton Choristers, A Cappella Showcase and the Halton Youth Symphony.

Nancy Cuttle, Arts Milton spokesperson, said the performances will provide a great opportunity for residents interested in joining a music group.

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A MAGICAL MEETING: Three-year-old Amy Vertolli (left) and sister Lilly, 2, look up in awe as they are showered with confetti at the conclusion of the Cinderella Show at Showcase Milton at Milton Sports Centre over the weekend.



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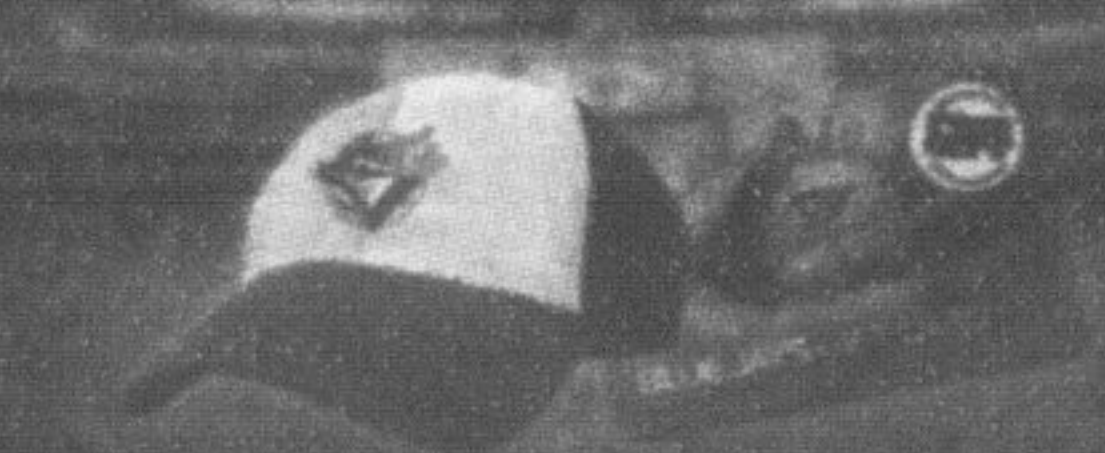
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