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L51 The Canadian Champion, Wed. November 16, 1988

Community Notebook

Concert at Noon: The newly renovated Hugh Foster Hall will be the setting for today's (Wednesday) inaugural concert at noon. The first of this season's concerts will feature the Kelso Trio and several solo performers. Tickets are available at the door. Adults pay \$3 and students and seniors pay \$2.

Blood Clinic: Give the gift of life by participating in the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic Thursday Nov. 24 from 1:30-8 p.m. at E.C. Drury School for the Hearing Impaired, 255 Ontario St. S.

Crimestoppers: Randy Pickard, chairman of Crimestoppers of Halton, will be the guest speaker at the annual general meeting of the Milton Chamber of Commerce. Nomination and election of officers will also be conducted at the meeting to be held at the Bayrischer Hof Restaurant, Steeles Avenue, tomorrow evening (Thursday) beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets to the dinner cost \$14 to members and \$17.50 to non-members. To register call the Chamber at 878-0581.

Science Fair: More than 150 young scientists will display their work at Milton District High School next week at the annual fall Science Fair. The competition requires judges and those interested are asked to contact Arn Salomon at 878-2839. The fair will be open to the public from 6-8 p.m. Thursday Nov. 24.

Big Tour: The local Big Sisters agency is holding a big house tour Saturday Nov. 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. which will take in five of Milton's finest homes. Each will be decorated to reflect the tour's Christmas theme. Tickets at \$10 each are available at Country Feelings, Bruce Hood's Milton Travel and Milton Greenhouses downtown, and at Uniglobe Can Travel at Milton Mall.

Fashion Fantasy: See all that Milton merchants have to offer at the Christmas Fashion Fantasy presented by Milton District Hospital Auxiliary. The lunch and show is set for Sunday Nov. 27 at Halton Hills Place, 12:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$16 each and are available at Delacourt's, the hospital business office and participating stores. Call 854-0256 for reservations. Featured stores include Arli's, Irene Hill, Jeanettes's Shoes, LaVie Fashion Boutique, the olde Hide House, Lobelio's Furs, Audrey Meredith and Knights Men's Wear. Models' hair and makeup by Hair Associates.

Craft Workshops: Ann Balanyk will conduct two Christmas craft workshops at Milton Public Library Wednesday Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 beginning at 7:30 p.m. There is a limit of \$20 per class. Tickets are \$2 each. Participants must bring their own scissors and glue. Kits will be available for purchase. To reserve a spot contact the library at 875-2665.

Special Olympics: Anyone interested in getting involved in the Ontario Special Olympics program for developmentally handicapped athletes is asked to contact the regional co-ordinator, Shannon Thompson at 561-8969.

Kid's Clothes: Hornby Co-op Nursery School will hold its second annual Children's Fashion Show Saturday (Nov. 19) at John Knox Christian School on McLaughlin Rd. in Brampton. Fashions from local stores including Primates and As We Grow will be featured. Admission is \$6. For ticket information call 878-9410.

Nursery school supervisor strikes gold

By LISA TALLYN

It's creative playtime at Milton Community Nursery School (MCNS).

For one hour, the 32 pre-schoolers can wander back and forth between the art and toy room. Today, the toy room is where the action is.

Amid the mayhem, chatter, and collection of toys, supervisor of the school Joan Gervais sits cross-legged in one corner of the room. Several children are seated around her. She patiently helps the children assemble the creative toy which has captured their interest that morning.

Mrs. Gervais has been a part of MCNS for the past 13 years. Her co-workers and peers say she is largely responsible for the success of the school. For that reason she was nominated recently for the Shoreline Co-operative Preschools Inc. Gold Pin Award.

Shoreline is the council of co-operative preschools in Halton, Peel and Etobicoke. The Gold Pin Award is presented each year to someone who shows outstanding leadership, co-operation and caring within their nursery school and community.

Mrs. Gervais received the pin at Shoreline's recent conference.

She says she was honoured to receive the award, but is humble about her accomplishments.

Sharon Power, president of Milton Community Nursery School, had many nice things to say about Mrs. Gervais in her nomination letter.

"While many people contribute to the operation and loving environment of a community nursery school, none work harder or longer at it than Joan," said Mrs. Power. "She has created, and maintains a caring, loving and learning environment within our classrooms."

"She takes a very personal interest in each one of the children and somehow manages to provide individual attention to each child, possessing that unique skill that can turn a tear into a smile and a blank piece of paper into a work of art."

Mrs. Gervais has been supervisor at the school, which offers programs for Milton children from age 3 to school age, Monday through Friday.

There are both morning and afternoon sessions, each 2½ hours long.

"At the school the children learn through play," said Mrs. Gervais. "We try to teach them socialization skills."

The focus is not on academics although one week is devoted to the letters of the alphabet.

Each week revolves around a theme.

Last week was baking. The children baked some cookies. On Friday they visited Betty's Bake Shop and Deli to get a look at baking on a larger scale.

"The kids loved it. We had a tour and every child brought 50 cents so they could buy a cookie."



Joan Gervais, pictured here helping two boys assemble a toy, is largely responsible for the success of Milton Community Nursery School. Mrs. Gervais, who admits she sometimes puts the school ahead of her own family, was recognized for her years of dedication recently. She received Shoreline's Gold Pin Award.

Other themes include fire prevention, the senses, and police.

Each month Mrs. Gervais tries to arrange a bus or carpool trip for the children. They have visited Mountsberg and a trip to the fire department is scheduled.

"The organization for these trips, as is the case with so many things that Joan does for the school, comes during her own time," said Mrs. Power.

Mrs. Gervais insists on a positive environment for the children at the school.

"We don't use the word no or can't. We try to make the child make their own decisions."

But there are rules for the children to follow.

There is no yelling, no running in the classroom. The children are told they have to sit at the table if they want to use scissors.

Creativity plays a large role in the school's curriculum.

Each day the art room is a busy place. The

children can work on a project which reflects the week's theme, while one table is set aside for the creation of their own masterpieces.

Parents are also responsible for the success of the non-profit organization which is based on the second floor of St. Paul's United Church on Main St.

To reduce costs, parents participate in the program. Of the 32 spots in each session, 24 of them are participatory. Moms, dads, and babysitters rotate their participation in the program.

"Without the help of our great workers and parents, the school would not be the success it has been."

This marks the 25th year for the school. It began in 1964 in the basement of St. David's Church in Campbellville.

Anyone interested in more information on Milton Community Nursery School can call 876-1619.

Seniors Centre members into a busy season

The next few weeks will be busy ones for the members of the Senior Citizens' Recreation Centre.

They are planning a Christmas bake sale and lunch on Saturday Dec. 3. In addition to a wide variety of homemade baked goods, there will be antiques and crafts for sale, and door prizes.

All seniors are welcome to attend the Christmas party on Thursday Dec. 15 from 1:30-4 p.m. The centre's line and square dancing groups and the Bluebirds Choir will provide musical entertainment. There will be carol singing, refreshments and gift exchange. Those attending should bring a \$2 gift. Seniors may be interested in going on some

Leisure Link
WITH ESTHER CALDWELL

of the upcoming tours. The Winter Wonderland outing on Thursday Nov. 24 will take seniors to Cullen Barns and Gardens. Seventeen dollars covers the cost of transportation and admission for this afternoon and evening trip.

Rosemary Clooney's White Christmas in

Rochester, N.Y., is the destination of the Dec. 11-13 tour. Depending on the type of accommodation selected, costs range from \$275. Some meals are included in this price. Tours of Rochester, the Kodak plant, the Strong Museum, and the Festival of Lights in Niagara Falls are also part of this trip.

Combine an afternoon shopping trip to Woodbine Centre with an evening at the People's Church in Toronto for the Living Christmas Tree Concert. The date is Saturday Dec. 17 and transportation and admission to the concert cost \$21.

The co-ordinator, Robin McPhail (875-1681), can provide further details about any of these events.

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