

## Community Notebook

**Musical for Kids:** Children age 6 and older are invited to take in a performance by Broadway Musical Express at Milton Public Library tomorrow (Aug. 9). The presentation of *Aladdin* and the *Wonderful Lamp* begins at 2 p.m. Tickets are limited in number and cost \$1. Call to reserve a spot, 875-2665. The musical presentation is part of a series of Thursday special events which run throughout the summer.

**Underwater Mysteries:** Clues to the history of the property surrounding Crawford Lake were discovered at the bottom of the lake. Visitors to the site this Sunday (Aug. 12) will find out about the underwater mysteries that resulted in the reconstruction of an Indian village near the lake. There will be a slideshow at 1 p.m. in the interpretive centre auditorium. Visitors can also hike along the boardwalk surrounding the lake or on the numerous nature trails.

**Bicycle Race:** Usually considered a retail and service district, downtown Milton will become a bicycle race course for an evening on Wednesday Aug. 15. The Tour du Canada bicycle race will include laps of downtown from 6:45-8 p.m.

**Host Families Needed:** Halton Support Services respite program is in urgent need of host families to provide temporary care to children and adults with developmental handicaps. The families are needed to provide short-term care on weekends, weekdays or a combination of both. The parents of handicapped people require time away and this program ensures these children and adults will be safe. Training is provided to host families as well as support. A wage of \$40 a day is paid. Those interested in becoming host families can contact Halton Support Services at 849-8000.

**Air Force Reunion:** The 45th annual reunion of No. 6 service flying training school, Dunnville, Ont., is being held Sept. 14-16. The weekend kicks off with a "mood adjustment" reception Friday evening. There will be a golf tournament at the Dunnville Golf and Country Club, a Harvard Aerobatic display and formation fly-past, parade, memorial service and a visit to the remains of the station and a gala dinner-dance on Saturday. A Sunday morning breakfast will wind down the festivities. All veterans and all ranks and their spouses are invited to attend. Those not on the mailing list are asked to contact Frank Scholfield, A.O.C. in C., 646 Alder Street West, Dunnville, Ont., N1A 1S5, (416) 774-5480.

**Lorne Scots Reunion:** The Lorne Scots Regiment is holding a reunion to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the regiment's formation. Events are planned for the weekend of Sept. 13-15. The Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, His Royal Highness, Major-General, the Duke of Kent will attend the reunion at Brampton Armouries. For more information contact Larry Fish, 1405 Acton Cres., Oakville, Ont., L6J 2S6, 844-6262.

**Film Fridays:** This week is the last of the 'Film Fridays' at Milton Public Library. There's no admission charge. This week's theme is animation — from Disney to computers.



Photo courtesy of CORRIERE CANADENSE

Lenny Lombardi (centre) passes along the \$1,500 first-prize cheque won by Sonjia Vascotto of Milton and Peter Marino of Oakville in the ninth annual Johnny Lombardi Italian-Canadian Song Festival at Ontario Place July 29.

### At Ontario Place

## Milton vocalist a hit . . . again

By KAREN SMITH

For the second year in a row, Milton vocalist Sonjia Vascotto took home the first-prize trophy in an Italian singing contest at Ontario Place.

"It was a shock because nobody ever wins twice in a row," she said last week.

Before an audience of about 47,000 people, Ms Vascotto and a partner successfully competed against 14 other entrants in the ninth annual Johnny Lombardi Italian-Canadian Song Festival July 29.

The contest is held in conjunction with Italian Day founded by Mr. Lombardi who is president of CHIN Radio/TV International — the sponsor of the event.

Ms Vascotto may have competed in the same festival last year, but that didn't make it any less nerve-racking for the 28-year-old this year. Competitions are never easy, she said.

"There's just that much more pressure to perform to your highest potential."

This time around, she performed with Oakville singer Peter Marino, formerly of Milton. The 1990 version of the contest was held in couples.

The pair was assigned to stage two solos followed by a duet. Ms Vascotto sang *Il Cielo In Uno Stanza* as her solo and performed *L'Immensita* with Mr. Marino. As well as the trophy, the couple won \$1,500.

And an album of recordings by



Milton Mayor Gord Krantz congratulated Ms Vascotto when she won the eighth annual Johnny Lombardi Italian-Canadian Song Festival in 1989. Mom Rosa Vascotto (right) is just as proud this year as she was a year ago.

contestants in the CHIN competition will be released for sale soon. Half the proceeds will go to charity, said Ms Vascotto.

Last year, Ms Vascotto, competing individually among 20 other male and female vocalists, won a \$1,000 prize which went toward her musical career. It was her third time entering the contest.

Winning seems to come easy for the singer. She was offered a two-week gig in Cuba and during the trip, she finished first

in a dance contest. It was an appropriate title considering she incorporates dance in her stage show.

Ms Vascotto prefers to sing English songs, but the CHIN contest provides her with an opportunity to celebrate her Italian heritage.

She has wanted to be a professional singer for as long as she can remember. Ms Vascotto started performing about seven years ago in local talent contests and other functions. After great

success, she started entertaining across Canada and the U.S.

Since her victory in the CHIN contest last year, singing has become a full-time career. She makes a living performing solo in both Italian and English languages and with her top 40 band called Playback at weddings and other functions.

Ms Vascotto lived in Milton for 24 years before moving to Mississauga three years ago. Recently, though, she moved back to town.

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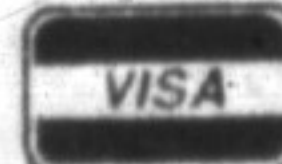
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