

The Canadian Ch

SERVING MILTON, ONTARIO

Ont. Community Newspaper
Box 451
OAKVILLE, Ontario
L6J 5A8

A Metroland Community Newspaper Vol. 133 No. 41 WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 1992

Auction brings in \$10,000 to shelter

Halton Women's Place's first major fundraising event Sunday was more successful than anyone imagined, said a member of the board of directors for the Milton women's shelter.

The Rays of Hope Auction raised just short of \$10,000 to cover operational costs for the shelter for battered women and their children.

A Robert Bateman print, Persian rug, and electronic equipment brought in a substantial amount of money, said Linda Gray, co-chair of the organization's fundraising committee.

The sale was also successful in raising awareness of the shelter and its aspirations to open a second such facility in Halton, she said.

"A lot of people had never heard of Halton Women's Place or didn't realize it was the only shelter for battered women in the region."

The Milton shelter has been operating near capacity for months, said Ms. Gray. Because more money than anticipated was raised, some funds may go to the new shelter fund.

The auction's success is due to support from the local business community, which donated items for the auction, she added.

The event is set for the first Sunday in May next year.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Going fishin'

A first-time participant in the annual Kelso Fishing Derby, Mandy Smith, 6, makes her way to a fishing spot near the dam, loaded down with fishing gear, coat and a picnic lunch. The two-weekend event concluded Saturday.

New pond pathway has hurdles

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

Milton will spend \$600,000 on various downtown upgrading projects over the next three years, with the centrepiece being work on the Mill Pond. But improvements to the walking trail encircling the pond are being held up by deliberations over the fate of fish.

Various government agencies, to say nothing of anglers, take a dim view of anything they think may harm fish habitat, and both the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA) are worried about potential effects on trout if Sixteen Mile Creek alongside the Mill Pond walkway is altered.

Town planners and municipal councillors are looking at ways of improving water

see MILL POND on page 2

Count yourself in on May 27

All it takes is 15 minutes of exercise and a call to Town Hall to ensure you are counted in the CrownLife Participation Challenge.

Milton is competing against Halton Hills in the Challenge on Wednesday May 27 this year.

The town with the highest percentage of the population taking part in physical activity will win. The Town plans to hold a mile-long circuit walk starting at the Milton Leisure Centre.

Participants must phone Town Hall between 8:30 a.m. and 9 p.m. after doing 15 minutes of exercise May 27.

NEWSLINES

New dates for bridge closure

The dates of the Steeles Avenue bridge closing have been changed because of construction delays. Instead of being closed from Monday, May 4 to Friday, May 15, it will shut down from Monday, May 11 until Friday, May 22.

The bridge straddles Highway 401 just east of Thompson Road.

The span will be closed on the Victoria Day holiday weekend (May 16-18). "It's beyond our control," Town public works director John Mathews told town councillors Monday night.

Eastbound traffic will be diverted south at Thompson Road to Main Street and east to the James Snow Parkway. Westbound traffic will reverse that route.

The bridge was rebuilt last year but some finishing work hasn't been completed.

INSIDE



Playing along

The Milton Players Theatre Group expose their designing ways in *Design for Murder* on stage May 6, 8 and 9 at St. Clair Masonic Hall. Reporter Karen Smith took in the opening night performance last Thursday and her review reveals the name of a special performer.

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Education Minister hands out awards at Drury



Photo by GREGORY PAINE

Education Minister Tony Silipo is taught a lesson on the computer by Grade 4 student Matthew Dene of London and Grade 5 student Lisa Denecker of Milton at the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf. The minister's visit Monday kicked off Education Week.

Education Week celebrates current achievements in the schools and "re-commits" Ontario to a successful system of learning for the future, said a provincial government minister Monday.

"We have to find ways of doing an even better job than we're doing to make what is an excellent school system an even better one," said Education Minister Tony Silipo at E.C. Drury High School.

The minister's morning visit kicked off Education Week celebrations at the high school, Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf, and Trillium School.

Mr. Silipo presented several students with special awards recognizing student achievement at the schools.

Chris Spence and Kevin Bell accepted the award certificate on behalf of the school's successful OFSSA wrestling team while Lily Lam represented the school's OFSSA basketball team.

Others recognized included various people who recently won a provincial award and Heather Fleming, the winner of the Student Excellence Award.

Tracy Elliott accepted the certificate for the high school's winning academic competition team, and deaf student Warren Mirza represented those who took part in the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf's play *Terminal*.

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