

New karate school location has a 'smart' opening

13—The Canadian Champion, Friday, May 15, 1992



Brown belt Alvin Luong (left) demonstrates a front kick with instructor Alan Lachapelle at Superkids Karate's second Milton location on Ontario Street.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

About 40 Beavers and Cubs went home a little wiser Saturday after attending a demonstration of street-smart self-defense techniques at Superkids Karate.

Instructor Alan Lachapelle and a team of students from the Cambridge and Milton Superkids Karate schools performed skits showing street-smart solutions to potentially dangerous situations.

The 2nd Meadowvale Beavers and Cubs, which are part of the Mississauga division of Scouts Canada, were given a chance to try some of the moves.

The show was the first held by Sensei Lachapelle at the school's new Milton location which opened at 550 Ontario Street last week.

A black belt who has been involved in the martial arts for 20 years, Mr. Lachapelle has been operating Milton's Superkids Karate school, formerly located on Main Street, since November, 1991.

He currently has 80 students, many who are from areas outside of town, including Burlington, Oakville, and Mississauga.

He also owns the Cambridge school where he trains about 200 students.

Street safety is an integral part of the karate school's program. Superkids Karate promotes building self-esteem and self-discipline to help children realize their full potential, according to Mr. Lachapelle.

He said he believes physical fitness and a structured system of goals leads to heightened self-esteem, greater self-confidence and overall better performance in all aspects of life.

Superkids was founded in Toronto in 1988 by internationally recognized karate experts Wally Slocki and Harold Warden.

The pair's concept has caught the attention of many educators and has often been featured in the media, including the show Positive Parenting which airs on YTV.

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

with HEATHER WOODS

Wasn't everyone a teenager?

"I don't know what's the matter with kids today..." Every day phrases like this follow teenagers around.

Teenagers are constantly labeled as disrespectful, shop-lifting, drug-addicted rebels, who don't care about anyone but themselves. If there is a rock thrown through a window or \$20 gone missing there's no doubt about it, it must have been a teenager.

I find it frustrating to be categorized because of my age as a lazy slob. Although there certainly are teenagers who shoplift and who spray-paint profanity on walls, most teenagers are perfectly respectable human beings.

There are plenty of teenagers out there who work just as hard or harder than adults. Many teenagers go to school all day, then go to work at a part-time job, where they do slave work for minimal pay. On top of that, a teenager can belong to two or three sports teams, the school band and the student council. Somewhere in there teenagers fit in homework, housework and babysitting younger siblings if both parents are at work. If you want to get into a good university it's a good idea to do some volunteer work as well.

Someone's age doesn't change what kind of person she is. It is true that teenagers get in more traffic accidents than other groups of people and that the crime rate among teenagers is high. However this doesn't mean that teenagers are bad people. They are young and inexperienced, just as every adult once was.

There are some people who have strong values and there are some people who don't care about anyone or anything. It makes no difference if they are 16 or 42.

Kids today are no better and no worse than kids 20 years ago. They still like to have fun and they still make mistakes but they will all grow up to be adults. Some of them will be great doctors and politicians and scientists. The world isn't going to fall apart because it is being run by these people who were all teenagers. After all, the great leaders of the world were at one time teenagers.

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