

Deaf teacher sings to promote pride

A local deaf singer is using her talents to spread a message that being deaf is something to be proud of.

Patti Trofimenkoff, a Grade 12 English and drama teacher at the E.C. Drury School for the Deaf, doesn't let her hearing impairment stop her from doing her favourite things — singing, dancing and signing.

And at the same time, Mrs. Trofimenkoff, who says she wants to go "way up to the top" with her talents, sets out to increase deaf people's self esteem and pride in their culture.

She performs often across the province with her deaf partner Juan Jaramillo of Toronto, receiving rave reviews. Mrs. Trofimenkoff and Juan, a former student of Milton's Ontario Street school for the deaf, were awarded certificates recognizing their talents from York Region during National Access Awareness

Week earlier this month.

Helen Sherman, whose brother is deaf, witnessed the duet perform at a mall during the special week. "They took everyone's breath away," she recalls. "The audience was just in awe."

Their performances also help change myths believed by society that deaf people are incapable of such feats, says Ms Sherman.

The singing team will perform at Hamilton's Mohawk College June 27 and 28, as well as at Reena Fun Day at the Promenade Shopping Centre in Thornhill August 31.

They have also been invited to strut their stuff at Ontario Place July 1 for Canada's 125th birthday celebration. But, Ms Trofimenkoff said, she may have to decline the request to instead spend the holiday with her husband and two children who live in Saskatchewan.

Born in Texas, Ms Trofimenkoff met her husband at a college for the deaf in Washington. They were married and moved to her husband's home province.

She worked at a deaf school in the prairie province until it closed, and later began working at the E.C. Drury School for the Deaf.

Since she moved to Milton nine months ago, Ms Trofimenkoff has organized two dance groups at the school made up of eight and 12 dancers. The students learn to dance to music through vibrations the sound sends.

She also directed school play Terminal, performed by deaf students at the Sears Festival this year. The production won several awards.

Ms Trofimenkoff likes to perform to music by Whitney Houston because she says it's inspirational.

Music is in her blood, she says. She began taking singing and dance lessons at the age of 8.



Putt for dough.

Drive for show, putt for dough, the old saying goes, and putting for dough was just what 10-year-old Derek Mewhinney was doing at Milltown Tire on Main Street last weekend. The business held a fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Josh Arnold was examining his line in the background.

Spaces still available for Mayor's Charity Golf

Milton's mayor and an area developer are teaming up as hosts of a charity golf tournament in support of the Milton Leisure Centre.

The Double 'K' Charity Golf Tournament is being co-hosted by Mayor Gord Krantz and Ignat

(Iggy) Kaneff of Kaneff Properties Ltd. at the prestigious Lion Head Golf and Country Club in Brampton. The pair expect to be joined by about 100 golfers on Tuesday, June 30.

There are already more than 60 golfers registered for the day, according to organizing committee chairperson Marilyn Andrews.

"The tournament is well on its way. We're aiming to raise \$15,000," she said.

A humorous surprise finale involving mayor Krantz and Mr. Kaneff will add to what Ms Andrews describes as a fun-filled day. There will be prizes for each golfer at the end of the scramble format tournament. A complimentary practice range will be available to participants.

There will be chances to win a trip for two to Las Vegas donated by Uniglobe CanTravel at Milton Mall; a gas barbecue from Union Gas; an Albert Casson print donated by the local artist and a \$350 travel voucher from Advance Travel of Mississauga.

The tournament fee is \$250 which includes 18 holes of golf, barbecue lunch, buffet dinner and prizes. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. The first two tee-off times are 12 noon.

For more information or to register contact Marilyn Andrews at 878-7777.



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