



## Gifted students perform

Bishop Reding was the place on Wednesday for gifted students to strut their stuff.

About 20 gifted students from each of the five Catholic high schools in Halton travelled to Bishop Reding to take part in Connections '93, a conference that features a variety of workshops. Diverse workshops included such topics as university preparation, animal rights, and computer animation.

workshops were divided into three time slots, and allowed students to choose the workshops in which they were most interested.

The day began with skits from each of the schools. The presentation was to reflect the theme "people helping people". Skits ranged from the host high school performing a brief play on AIDS awareness, to Assumption touting their music department. The workshops began afterward in classrooms around the school.

Organized by students, these

Photo by GRAHAM PRINE  
Joan Gervais, 48, of Milton is missed by students and co-workers of Milton Community Nursery School. The former supervisor returns every other week, though, to visit. Here, (from left to right) Lucas, 3, Alexander, 5, and Kimmy, 5, are especially happy to see her.

## After 18 years, retired nursery school teacher can't stay away

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

Children piled into the Graham Hall as they returned from a school trip.

With them was Joan Gervais — the teacher-supervisor who retired, but can't stay away.

Parents and employees of Milton Community Nursery School now call Mrs. Gervais a guest, but they know her as the person who inspired students for 18 years.

"I come back every other week to see the children," says the 48-year-old Milton resident. "And they like to see me."

She retired from the nursery school earlier this year after working as a supply teacher, assistant supervisor, and most recently supervisor — all since 1975.

Her work included planning the co-operative nursery school's program, teaching, and working with parents. It's a job she misses, but one she wanted to leave while still enjoying it.

"It's very rewarding working with children," she says. "The children come with a smile and go home with a smile. Everything is positive."

Mrs. Gervais had just returned from Kelsey's Restaurant when *The Champion* interviewed her at St. Paul's United Church's Graham Hall.

The school, which originally started in Campbellville, has been located there for several years.

Students were invited to the Chisholm Drive restaurant to help decorate the walls with their art for Easter, and then stay for lunch.

A 1964 graduate of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute's home economics and pre-school program, Mrs. Gervais went along for the ride.

She admits she becomes attached to the young students she teaches, and remembers every one. "You get to know them personally and very, very well. No matter how long you're in this job, you learn something new every day."

At her retirement party March 28, three former nursery school students who are now in their teenage years presented Mrs. Gervais with a gold necklace.

Children seem to be learning more and more every day as well, adds Mrs. Gervais, noting that modern resources have broadened their horizons and made them more outspoken.

"The children seem to know so much more each year. They're exposed to more things, now."

Since her retirement, Mrs. Gervais hasn't taken on any new challenges. The pace of her lifestyle has just slowed down. "I do basically the same things, I just take all day to do them, now," she says.

A Milton resident since 1962, Mrs. Gervais lives with her husband Buck and son Brett, 23. Her daughter Lisa Perdue, 26, lives in Fredericton with her husband and 10-month-old son Stephen.

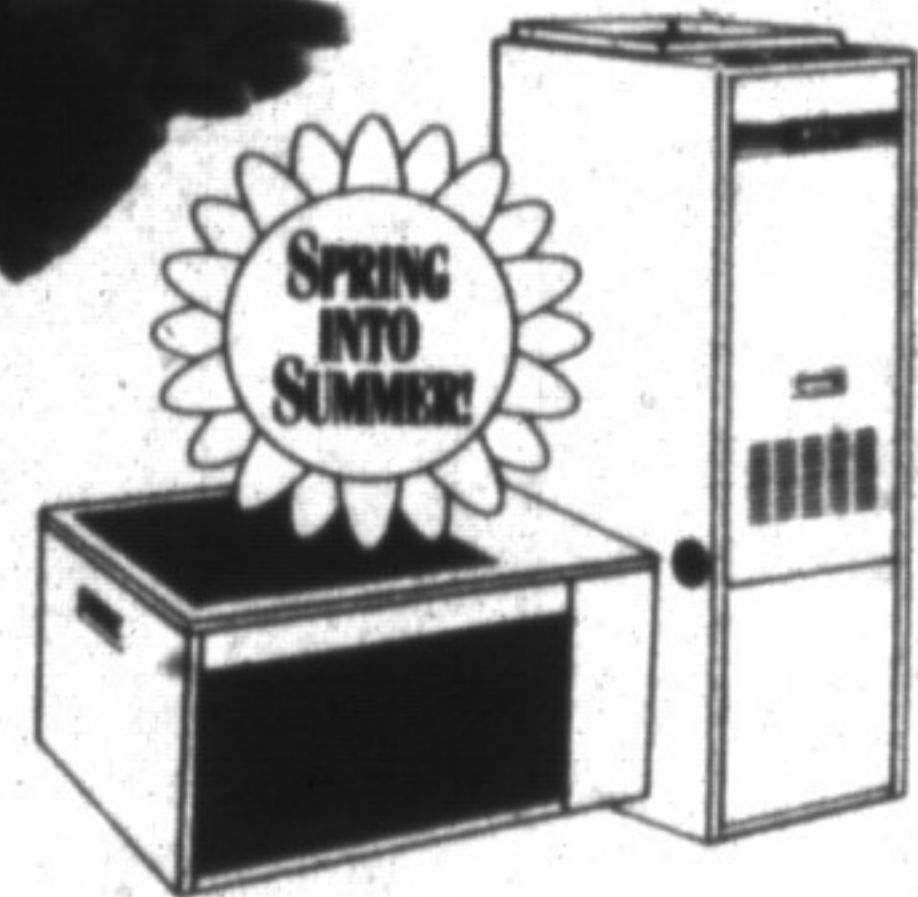
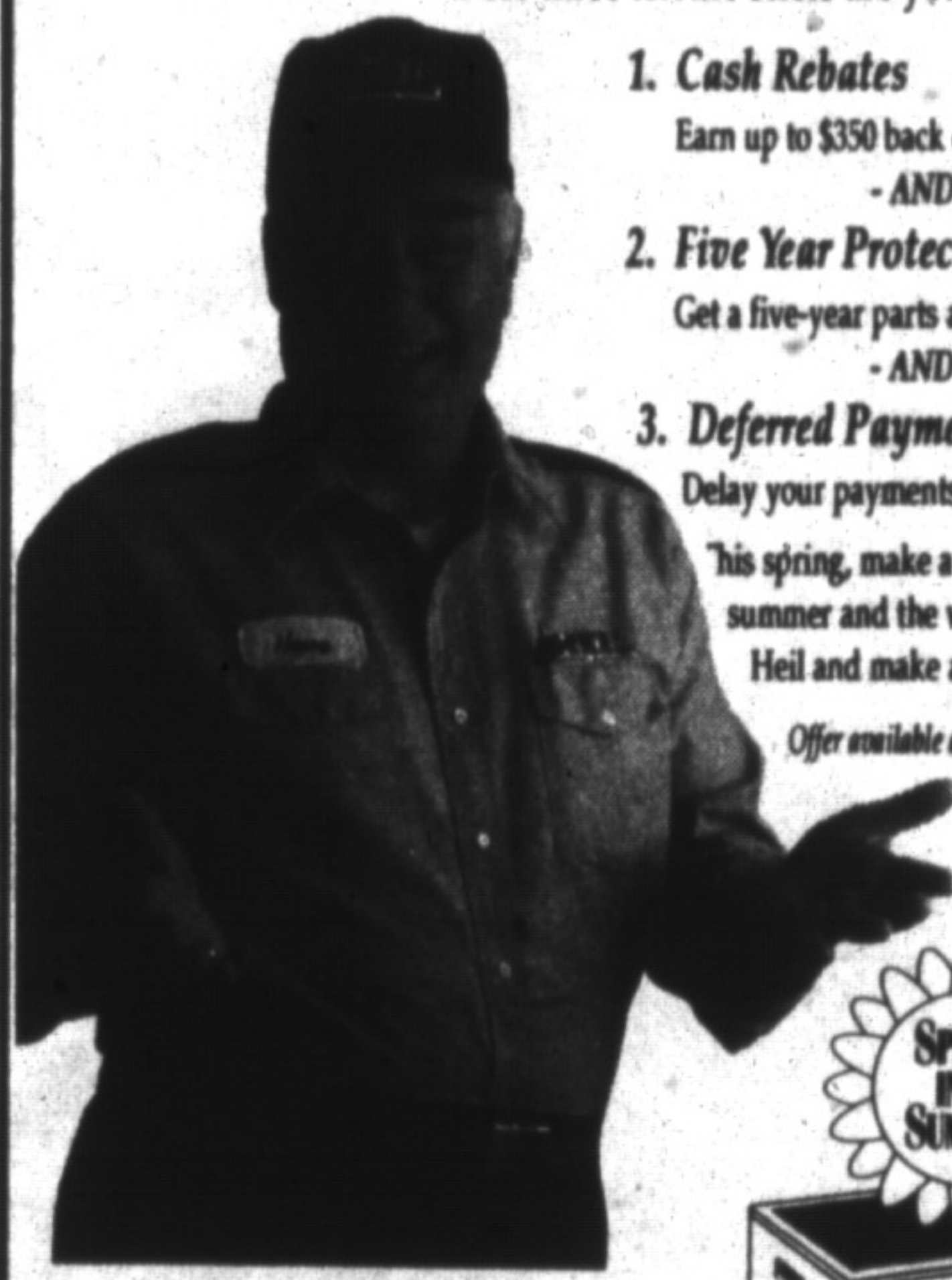
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