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Art mentoring program available for local teens

By Julie Slack

CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Fine Arts Society of Milton (FASM) is offering teens a chance to develop art skills and have their works shown in a March exhibition. FASM is seeking 40 youth between 13 and 19 years old, who like to draw, paint or create in other art forms.

Details of the Youth Visual Arts Mentoring Project, a free art initiative for teens, were announced last week.

FASM president Ursula McDermid said the participants should be youth who are interested in pursuing the arts as a career or hobby. Students don't need to have any previous training or level of artistic skill, simply a passion to explore the arts.

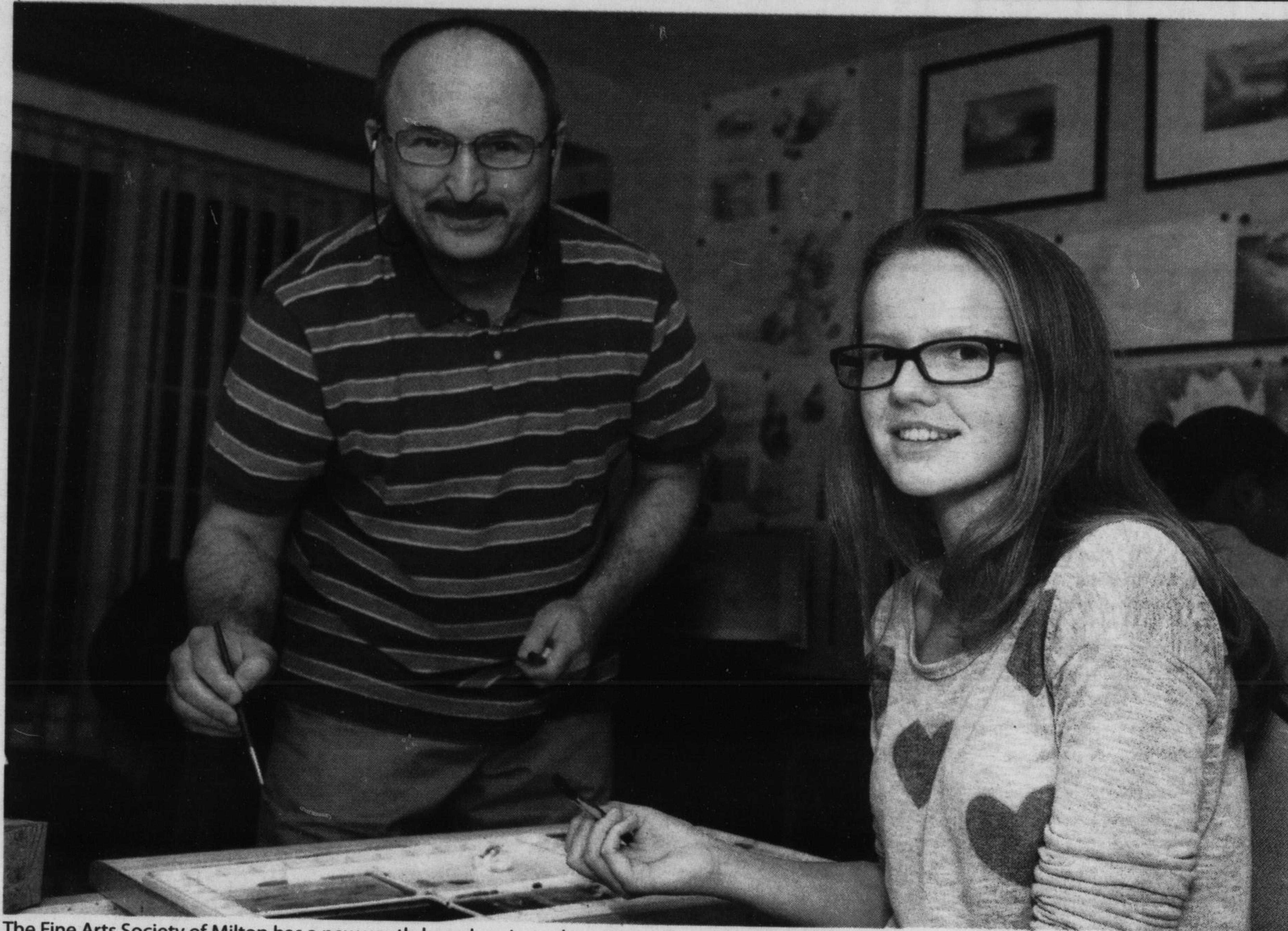
Since space is limited, she said students will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis. If more than 40 apply, she said they will be placed on a waiting list.

Teens who are selected will be asked to attend four workshop/art mentoring sessions: January 24, February 7 and 21, and March 5. They will be held at the Milton Centre for the Arts.

The art exhibition will be at the Holcim Gallery March 9 to 28.

Participants must cover the costs of materials required to create the work of art.

McDermid explained that the youth will be



The Fine Arts Society of Milton has a new youth-based project where 40 youth will be selected to work with mentors from the organization. Here, art student and applicant Madeleine Avery, 14, works on a watercolour painting with instructor Fedor Yatsik, who's one of the mentors, in his studio.

Stacey Newman / Special to the Champion

working with local area professional artists where they will learn about art and techniques, while receiving one-on-one mentoring time.

Students will also learn how to prepare for a professional exhibition, learning firsthand how an exhibition comes together.

"It is our hope that young, emerging artists in the area will take advantage of the Youth

Visual Arts Mentoring Project," said McDermid. "It's an excellent opportunity to learn, explore the arts and be inspired by professional artists."

The Milton Optimist Club is helping to sponsor the project.

In addition, McDermid said Friends for Harmony, a local group advancing social harmony among youth and led by Sandy Gemmill

and Dan Gaudry, will partner with FASM in various aspects of the project.

For details, or to apply, call (905) 693-0378 or email umcdermid@gmail.com or Amanda Gonsalves (905) 693-8735, mccafferty@sympatico.ca

Julie Slack can be reached at jslack@miltoncanadianchampion.com or on Twitter @miltonmusing.

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