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St. Michael's Choir to present special Christmas concert

Michael's Choir school ber. has been instrumental in Christmas season.

choir will be performing songs, in addition to "Do director. the same program that You Year What I Hear?"

will include "Sleigh program.

Massey Hall for three Shepherds and Kings.

the cause.

Most churches these days are equipped with electric organs, or with pipe organs which have electro-pneumatic action. This means that when the keys are pressed, the action which sends air through the pipe is dictated by an electronic impulse.

120 members of St. Michael's Choir School are presenting a concert of Christmas music at St. Theresa's High School on December 22. Tickets are

An alumnus of St. nights early in Decem- There are some adult voices in the senior choir There are three choirs which will include "Lift bringing the famed 120 in the group. The Junior up your Heads", "For voice singing group to Choir, composed of boys Unto Us a Child is Born", Midland for a concert in grades five and six at and "I Saw Three Ships"

Bob Whittam, Director Ride", "Ding Dong All three choirs will of Music at St. Margaret's Merilly on High" and a combine for the final Church in Midland Czech carol, "Harken to section which will include considers the appearance Me", in their selections. "O Holy Night" and a of the choir "a major The tenor and bass Christmas medley event on Midland's choir will sing a selection arranged by Monsignor cultural calendar. The of modern Christmas J.E. Ronan, choir

What is most they're doing in Toronto's and the chorus of remarkable about this evening of glorious music is that the St. Michael's choir school is donating its services for the con-

Proceeds from the evening are slated for the restoration of the 1890 R.S. Williams tracker organ at St. Margaret's. "As soon as they heard about our old tracker organ," says Whittam, 'they volunteered their services. They believe in

In tracker organs, the action is completely mechanical. The pipes are connected directly with the keyboard. There has been a resurgence of interest in tracker organs in the past few years but not before many churches had dismantled theirs, in favour of the more modern electric instruments.

Fortunately, at St. Margaret's, although an electric organ has been in use for about ten years, thje old tracker organ is specifically attuned to the St. Michael's Choir School in their section of the still intact, though unplayable at the moment. "Over the years," says Whittam, "it gradually deteriorated to the point School concert is the first where organists step. sometimes had to pause in mid-service to repair something with a bit of scotch tape. However, program as well as their even though it hasn't been played for ten years, the historically significant as well as choral music.

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St. Margaret's has already secured a Wintario grant which will pay for one third of the restoration cost, up to five thousand dollars. Estimates of restoration costs are in the thirteen thousand dollar range. The St. Michael's Choir

The school was founded in 1937 and students pursue a sound academic musical instruction which includes theory, and instrumental instruction instrument, and it should Most of the St.

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graduates proceed to university, but few pursue music as a career. Most of them, like Bob Whittam, seek other vocations, but choose music as an avocation. "I have a commitment

to expressing myself at church, in song," says Whittam. "More than that, my commitment is to encourage others to do

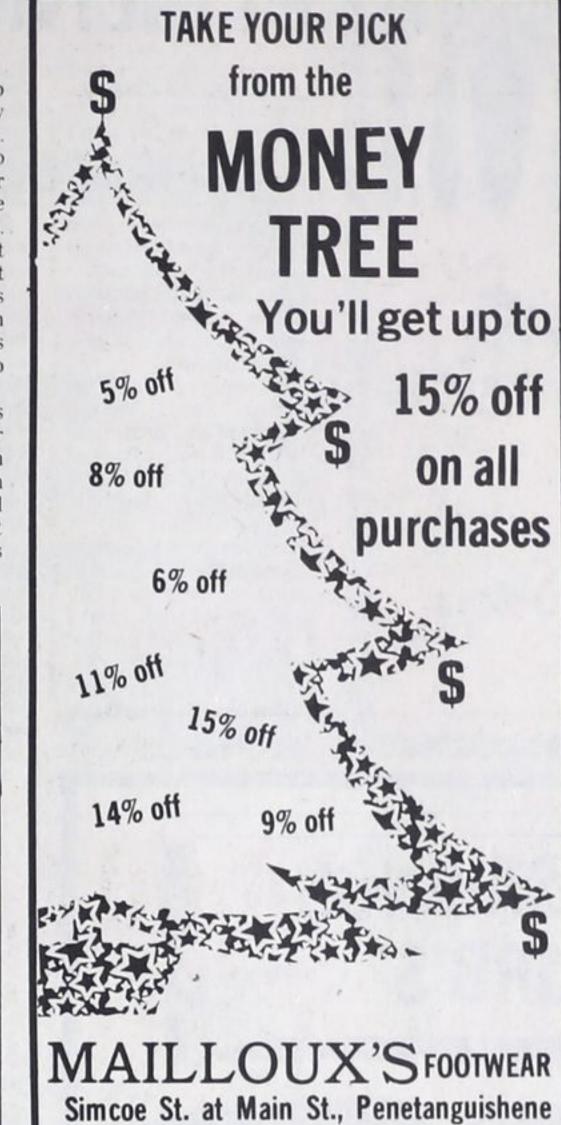
And when the 120 voices of the St. Michael's choir school fill the air with silvery festive sounds on Decemb er 22, it may well be one of the loveliest Christmas presents

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'Silent Night'

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Gift shop

Jesse Brown (left) and Miriam Williams add the final touches to Huronia District Hospital's new Gift Shop. The ladies volunteer their services.

.. Staff photo

Women Auxiliary's gift

shop is all about Manned by between 20 to 30 Auxiliary volunteers who each week give two or more hours of their time to the special little store, the gift shop is the hospital visitor's answer to forgotten "cheer-ups." Gift shop convenor Belle McKee and her willing staff are still in the process of stocking the new shop, opened only December 1st. A larger gift and novelty selection, a card rack and magazine selection are but a few of the ideas Mrs. McKee hopes to put to work in the

coming weeks. Somewhere between 25 to 30 per cent of the items carried in the Auxiliary shop are hand made by Auxiliary volunteers. The others are selected at special gift shows held in Toronto.

All proceeds from the gift shop go towards further work of the Women's Auxiliary, though the Auxiliary has no immediate plans for funds made through gift

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