

LIFESTYLE NEWS

TO SUGGEST A STORY FOR THIS PAGE, CONTACT LAURA LENNIE AT 905-308-7757 EXT. 333

THE ARTS

Anyone for quilting?

The Stoney Creek Quilters Guild meets the first Wednesday of each month from September to June from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 622, 12 King St. E. Refreshments, speakers, draws and door prizes. Learn how to quilt in the guild's monthly workshops. For more information, call Christine Nuttall at 905-679-4931.

VOLUNTEER

Help the VON

The VON is currently looking for volunteer drivers and servers to deliver meals to seniors in Hamilton. Please call 905-522-1022 for more info. As well, the VON Smart Seniors Exercise Program is looking for volunteers interested in helping seniors in groups and in homes with exercises to help with mobility. Please call 905-522-0053 for more info.

The VON Hospice Volunteer Service is looking for volunteers interested in offering emotional and practical support to individuals living with a life-threatening illness. 30-hour education is provided. Please call 905-522-0053 for more info.

Be a foster parent

Foster parents are needed for Hamilton-area children, especially infants and teens. For more information call 905-546-5437 or visit www.homesforkids.com.

LITERATURE

Canada Jack continues

The latest installment of The Legend of Canada Jack, a tale of bravery and adventure written by retired judge John R.H. Tucker, is now available online.

Over the next few months, the *Stoney Creek News* will be publishing segments of the book at our website, www.stoneycreeknews.com.

St. David's School gives to young mothers for lent

By PAUL HUTCHINGS
NEWS STAFF

Students at the St. David's Catholic School have found a new way to observe lent that doesn't involve giving up candy.

They've been collecting items for the St. Martin's Manor, a home for young parents who choose to have their babies. The items collected include diapers, baby food, toys, books and various baby clothing to be sent in the coming weeks.

Helping during the Christian observance of Lent is a relatively new idea for the school, as this is only the second year they have made donations during this time of year.

"It was an idea we had that during Lent we would pick a charity to help out, and this year it was St. Martin's Manor," said St. David's principal Sandra Scime.

Called the St. David's School Community Lenten Promise, the program was originated by junior kindergarten teacher Maria Buccella. The two large tables at the head of the cafeteria show the extent of the giving in the past few weeks, as items are practically falling off.

"Every school has that person who organizes these types of programs, and Mrs. Buccella definitely fills that role for us, she's been wonderful and this shows through

Christ-like actions we can all give and help support our community right here in Hamilton," said Ms. Scime.

The St. Martin's Manor was established in 1954 and is a program of the Catholic Family Services of Hamilton. It offers residence during pregnancy, day programs, access to regular medical care for young parents, and education programs.

Ms. Buccella said response to the program from students has been excellent, and the number of donations has been almost overwhelming.

"It's been about more than just the kids bringing things in," she said. "They go home and get their parents involved and then get other members of the family involved as well, so more items are donated."

She added the school newsletter also informed families of students that the program was happening. In it, each grade was given a suggested donation so they wouldn't have too much of one item. Some grades were given suggestions of baby food, clothing, diapers, and anything else needed by a new mom. For next year they will most likely choose to donate to St. Martin's Manor again. Ms. Buccella said the need for the service will be there for awhile.



PHOTO BY PAUL HUTCHINGS

Student council members at St. David's Catholic School gather around tables full of items collected at the school as part of the St. David's School Community Lenten Promise program. All the grades in the elementary school collected goods for St. Martin's Manor, a facility for new mothers, in Hamilton.

Book helps March of Dimes raise funds for kids with special needs

The proceeds from a new book co-authored by a Stoney Creek contractor will go towards the venerable March of Dimes in their quest to provide accessibility to children with physical challenges.

So says home renovation specialist Bobby Assadourian, who saw fit to get in on the project after helping a child in the Guelph area that suffered paralysis after surgery and had trouble getting around her home.

The book, *A Contractor You Can*

Bring Home to Mom, provides the reader with a glimpse into the motivations of a contractor, as well as insider tips to help make your home "renovation ready".

Mr. Assadourian said he resisted getting involved in this type of charity work, fearing that not all of the profits would get to those who actually needed them.

"When I met that little girl I realized that my efforts would go towards helping make her home barrier-free, so I immediately

signed up," he said.

He also started canvassing various businesses around Hamilton and Stoney Creek for donations.

"After that happened I started to become aware of the challenges people like this child have and that was the inspiration for this project," he said. "This book is about my time in the industry but as to donating the funds to the March of Dimes, that came straight from her."

The book is designed to assist homeowners in staying current

with the rules, regulations and contractors who service the contracting industry. It puts a primary emphasis on understanding the renovation life cycle from all angles, including that of the contractors who service the industry and regulators who police it. The publication is co-authored with Young Entrepreneur of the Year Trevor Bouchard.

A Contractor You Can Bring Home to Mom is available at most major bookstores as well as online at Lulu.com and Amazon.com.

CALL OUT FOR STONEY CREEK CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

THE STONEY CREEK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS LOOKING FOR EXTRAORDINARY CITIZENS IN THE COMMUNITY

Nomination forms are available on-line at www.chamberstoneycreek.com or can be picked up at:

The Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce, 21 Mountain Ave. S., L8G 2V4 or call 905-664-4000 for a list of alternate pick-up locations.

Nominations for Citizen, Junior Citizen and Corporate Citizen

must be received by the Chamber office on Friday, April 3rd by 5 pm.

The Grand Event to honour the 2008 recipients will be held at Galileo's Gardens, Thursday May 14th, 2009

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