

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Local musicians launch new CD

Two Oakville musicians – David Johannesson, drummer and blues artist, and Brian Legere, guitarist and teacher – will be on hand on Monday, May 1st when John MacMurphy celebrates the official release of his newest CD, *Product '58*, at The Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, 194 Queen St. W., Toronto, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Johannesson, who once played in Hagood Hardy's band as a drummer,

played drums and Legere played guitar on *Product '58*, which features such familiar tunes as *Music of the Night*, *Ado*, and *A Child is Born*. Also appearing on this CD are Brian Wray on keyboards and Victor Bateman.

The CD party will include performances by MacMurphy's group as well as by Hampton Avenue and his group, which is also celebrating the release of its CD, *Everybody Sing*.



The Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) of Halton

The Community Care Access Centre of Halton (CCAC) has recently completed the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to determine the organization(s) that will provide and deliver nursing services to CCAC clients for the next three years commencing July 1, 2000.

Bette Martin, Chair, Community Care Access Centre of Halton Board of Directors, is pleased to announce that subsequent to this RFP process the Board has approved the awarding of contracts to the following three organizations:

- Victorian Order of Nurses Halton Branch for 50% of the volume of service requested
- SEN Community Health Care for 30% of the volume of service requested
- ParaMed Health Services, Oakville Branch for 20% of the volume of service requested

The implementation of the Request for Proposal process is in keeping with the mandate of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to introduce a process to ensure the purchase of the highest quality care at a reasonable price. The CCAC looks forward to working closely with these agencies to continue to provide high quality community based care for Halton citizens.

The Community Care Access Centre of Halton coordinates home care services for Halton residents, offers information and referral to community services, and provides information and placement into long-term care facilities. Services accessed through the CCAC are funded by the Ministry of Health and

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Photo by Riziero Vertolli

Nicole Lauermeier, who creates candles, will be selling them at Saturday's Art and Artisans by the Lake. The Oakville artisan donates 10% of profits to a local charity each year.

Candlemaking was her destiny

By Scott MacArthur
SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

When local artist and entrepreneur Nicole Lauermeier decided on the name *Divine Intervention* for her new business in September, 1998, she did so believing that it played a part in her venture.

Lauermeier, who had recently retired from a merchandising position with Bell Canada, was shopping at Oakville Place when she ran into an old high school friend.

"We hadn't seen each other in 20 years," she said of her friend Marion Elliott. "We got to chatting and rekindled our friendship and things got going from there."

Lauermeier had received a candle-making recipe from another friend and decided to put it to use. Elliott designed

cards to go with the candles in celebration of their reunited friendship. Together, they entered a local craft show and found that people wanted to buy their work.

"Hence the name *Divine Intervention*," said Lauermeier. "There was a reason that Marion and I ran into each other that day at the mall."

Elliott has since left the business, but Lauermeier has expanded it.

"Candles are still the majority of my business," said the mother of one. "However, I now do some dried floral arrangements and pot-pourri."

Lauermeier, who works out of her basement and does not have any paid employees, stresses that her business is not about making money.

"My household are faithful Christians and my minister told me that candles are a divine light," she said. "Every year we donate 10% of our profits to a local charity, with Helping Hands being the beneficiary last year."

"My whole family has helped me out wonderfully," she said. "My husband, mother-in-law and other friends help out, and I've found my business really revolves around spirit and family."

Lauermeier enjoys the fact that she conducts a small business because it allows her to have flexibility in ways that she didn't before.

"First of all, it allows me to work when I want, so when my son is sick, for example, I just don't make candles and tend to him until he gets better," she said. "After we got started I had 20 stores carrying my products and that got to be too much, so I've cut back considerably and do almost only consumer shows."

After being in business for almost 19 months, Lauermeier has learned a thing or two about candle safety.

"First of all, obviously, you never leave a candle unattended," she said.

"Before lighting a candle for the first time, trim the wick to a quarter-inch. That creates a smaller flame, which allows the candle to burn longer and safer."

The diameter of a candle determines the length of time it can safely be left burning.

"Generally, you can burn a candle safely for an hour for every inch of its diameter," she said. "So, if a candle has a two-inch diameter, you can burn it for two hours; if it has a three-inch diameter, it can burn for three hours, etcetera."

Lauermeier's work will be on display this Saturday (April 29th) at the May Court Club's third annual *Art and Artisans by the Lake* show and sale at Appleby College. She encourages anyone interested in her work to contact her at 339-1545.

Lauermeier feels a sense of satisfaction with her life, believing that she has found the perfect balance between family, spirit, and work.

"I was always told to do what you love and love what you do," she said. "I've certainly found that with my work, and I've learned that it's better to get carried away with something than attached to the outcome, because the other path might just be more interesting."

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