

The Talk

Self-esteem grows along with reading



SUZANNE BOURRET

The little guy was a poor reader and probably knew it. But volunteer

Mary Trout, a retired elementary teacher from Caledonia, worked with him and built a word bank using memory words on cards with words such as "was" that don't sound out very well. "His biggest thrill was watching his word bank grow." He'd take it back to class and proudly announce, "I'm at 75." Mary had big concerns about his reading, but he made great strides by the year's end, she says. Results from the tutoring program started two years ago by Neighbour to

Neighbour Centre, a community centre that provides services for the unemployed and underemployed, are amazing, says Peter Maliphant, principal at George L. Armstrong elementary school on Concession Street. The tutoring program, for children in Grades 1 to 3 at five Mountain schools, was started for children from low-income families on Hamilton Mountain who have academic difficulties. About 20 students from Grade 2 and 3 were linked with three volunteers

last year at George L. Armstrong. This year, the school has 13 volunteers. "We tested students for their levels at the beginning of the year and by the end, some had improved a grade level and some by two grade levels," he says. Things improved to the point where a good percentage became solid readers. There were other positive results, too, because their self-esteem improved greatly. "We were just thrilled," he says. Neighbour to Neighbour's fundrais-

er last Friday night at Edgewater Manor raised about \$8,000. The money will go to emergency services, such as the food bank and Christmas food hamper program. From Nov. 28 to Dec. 22, food and new toys can be dropped off at the Neighbour to Neighbour Centre, 28 Athens St. on Hamilton Mountain, from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or call 905-574-1334 for pickup.

sbourret@thespec.com
905-526-3305

Get out those needles

Trix Harrison of Dundas is desperate for knitters. She wants to see every needy child and adult with a knitted hat before winter sets in. The Little Hats That Grew, a group that started with about 25 knitters four years ago, has grown but so have the needs in the community. New knitters are needed because some of her faithful knitters have moved away or cannot help because of illness. "The response hasn't been as good this year. We need about 1,000 hats to meet our goal. "The knitters have dried up and no



HAMILTON SPECTATOR FILE PHOTO

Trix Harrison of Dundas says about 1,000 hats are needed for this winter.

one is calling to donate wool," she says. Trix thinks, "the need in your own backyard" can be forgotten by people because of the calls to respond to recent world disasters. She still needs knitted hats, mitts and scarves for the Bundle Up program, Out of the Cold, Martha House, the Native Women's Centre, Children's Aid Society in Brantford, Wesley Centre and the Good Shepherd Centres. To help, call 905-628-3949.



Murline Mallette of Liaison College gives Slim the duck a hug. Slim is a favourite at Puddicombe Farms in Winona and will never be part of a turducken.

Grace the holiday table with your first turducken

Is it a duck, a chicken or a turkey? It's all three. It's a turducken. A turducken is a de-boned turkey, stuffed with a de-boned duck, which is then stuffed with a small, de-boned chicken. It's traditional to stuff each cavity with three stuffings — sausage and oyster bread stuffing, cornbread stuffing and stove top or traditional holiday gibleb stuffing. The story goes that an old geezer strolled into Heberts Specialty Meats in Louisiana back in the mid-1980s with a big request. He had just slaughtered a turkey, a duck and a chicken and asked the owner to de-bone the trio and stuff one in the other. The turducken was born. Along came celebrity chef Paul Prudhomme who took out a trademark on the name and claimed the fame, according to the Louisiana butcher. But Heberts Specialty Meats finally got the credit. In last month's issue of National Geographic magazine, the store was named the turducken birthplace. It sells about 3,300 a year. People rave about its easy carving and juicy meat. Murline Mallette of Liaison College says turducken goes for \$350 across the border. And now dahlings, you too can have what some say looks like giant frog in a smart sweater on your Christmas dinner table. You can create your holiday turducken in the kitchen of Liaison College with chef **Steven Popp** and his students on Tuesday, Dec. 13, starting at 5 p.m. Bring your slippers because it is expected to last until about midnight. Cost is \$180 per person. If you don't want to spend up to eight hours mucking around in beastly cavities, you can order one — no later than Dec. 16 at noon and pickup before noon on Dec. 22. Cost is \$250 and includes cooking instructions. Call 905-308-9333.

Hamilton artist is hot on the coast

Her cool, groovy blue women are moving on and outta here. They're hanging out in Santa Barbara starting Dec. 4 at Fresco and her piece Last Chance Café, which is getting the buzz, was chosen for a group show that will be there until March. Hamilton artist **Bev Hogue's** three-dimensional art is a hot topic on the West Coast where Last Chance is listed at \$2,500 US. She has also created a line of limited edition prints of her best pieces. Last Chance sells for \$500 US. Art sponsor **Allan Silberhartz** said her piece was a standout when it previewed two weeks ago. Hamilton artist **Patricia Gagic**, who has art in the show as well, attended the preview and said Bev's piece got a lot of attention. "Last Chance is one of my most popular new pieces. I am quite humbled and excited about this turn of events," says Bev, who reports there is interest in other L.A. galleries. She has a broker in San Francisco who just picked up her fashion accessories, called Blue Bling Brooches, and belt buckles that are being marketed to



Bev Hogue's work Last Chance Café generated a lot of interest when it previewed at a gallery recently. 'Last Chance is one of my most popular new pieces,' she says.

Bay area retailers. Her pieces have also been snapped up for a new, high-end fashion shop, Hannah B in Mississauga. It is managed by Hamiltonian **Carla Kugler**. Her mother, **Gerda Kugler**, and her stepfather, **Ned Janjic**, are Hamilton property managers. Bev is definitely a Hamilton booster. "Wherever I go, I tell people I'm from Hamilton, Canada."



The "BEFORE" picture.

The Reveal



The "BEFORE" picture.

See what seven weeks and \$25,000 from our amazing sponsors has done for Michelle Franks' living room.

Toby Yull, local designer and long-time columnist at The Hamilton Spectator, has worked with the family to come up with a beautiful, new room that fits their lifestyle. Did they go modern or contemporary? How did they make sense of all the clutter? Is this a room the entire family can come home to? See the entire process and transformation in the upcoming *Go@home Makeover* section Saturday, November 12, 2005. Only in The Hamilton Spectator.

