

THE MISSISSAUGA Times

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MORRIS LABOYTHE/THE TIMES

The group of three

The Times' first-ever coloring contest has uncovered some remarkably talented youngsters in Mississauga and these winners are the cream of the crop. Jason Fong, Cherish

Marshall and Natalie Pavlic were selected from almost 1,400 entrants as the best in their respective age categories and win gift certificates at Leisure World, the Square One

toy store. More details of the contest and winners appear on Page 30.

Progress muzzles the Chatterbox

By MARY LOUISE BIRKS
Times staff writer

The "best place in the world to meet people" closed its doors for the last time on Saturday.

The night before familiar regulars, down-in-the-dumps about the closing of the Chatterbox Restaurant — the oldest 24-hour diner in Mississauga — gathered one last time for a "big bang-up party."

It's the end of an era, said Sylvia Brown, co-owner of the diner that's tacked onto the Gulf station at the intersection of Dun-

das and Hurontario Streets. The station is being closed to make way for a shopping plaza and the Chatterbox must go.

The diner got its start three owners and 32 years ago as part of the defunct Chatterette Drive-in chain. Brown was a Chatterbox regular for 10 years before other regulars convinced her and sister Mari Lynne to buy the place when it went on the market a year and a half ago.

In keeping with the tradition of dishing up "cheap homecooked meals," they did

well enough to pay off the mortgage in the first year.

Sylvia and Mari Lynne have shed a lot of tears since they got the final notice that the Gulf Station is closing effective Dec. 31. Brown says the restaurant and the gas station will be boarded up Jan. 2 and remain that way until construction begins on the proposed Cooksville Village Square.

"The Chatterbox is the name that just sort of evolved," said Brown. "It was the best place in the world to meet people.

You could come in here alone and sit down and meet a room full of friends. I guess most our customers came for the entertainment — just to talk. Why there isn't anything that hasn't been discussed under this roof!"

The Chatterbox attracted an adult clientele that ranged from taxi drivers and local strippers to big names in sport, police from the local division, to customers who remember when the corner of 5 and 10 was downtown Cooksville.

Continued on page 3

News

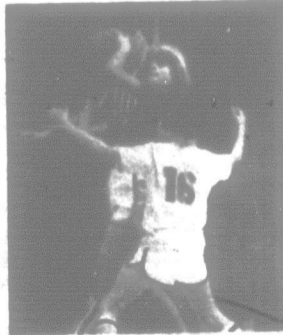
The next decade presents some challenging problems for Mississauga — Page 2 . . . An internal report to the Peel District Health Council says the shortage of child care facilities in Mississauga is creating serious problems — Page 3 . . . The separate school board says it won't strap children unless parents are consulted first. Besides, most schools don't even have a strap — Page 12 . . . The Times talks to a fortune hunter who pays his bills by cleaning chimneys — Page 17



Hi! My name is Molly. I'm very rare, very large and I'm off to Italy, if you please. My story is on Page 13.

Views

Times readers are angry about the school board's "barbaric" policy of strapping students in Grades 4 to 8 . . . One reader thinks some of The Times Christmas stories were sarcastic garbage . . . students from St. Christopher School have waxed poetically about the November train derailment and Ann Bolton offers her good reasons for going to school at IndEC — Page 11 . . . Times News Editor Chris Zelkovich reflects upon the excesses that go with the holiday season — Page 3



Good thing this basketball league is just for fun or I'd knock his block off. More pictures on Page 27.

Things to do

The British are coming. In fact they're here in the form of British pubs which are dominating the bar scene in the Toronto area — Page 22 . . . André Gagnon's latest album is rated as a masterpiece by Times' record critic Ian MacPherson — Page 23 . . . Got the post-holiday blahs? Check page 15 for things to do in Mississauga and Page 21 for the regular Scene listings of activities.