

Model plans eating disorder centre

BY DEIRDRE HEALEY
MERCURY STAFF

GUELPH

Imagine surviving off only one can of pop a day or eating a single salad as your only meal.

That was the typical diet of the girls Angela Marchione was surrounded by during her teenaged years of modelling and acting.

Watching these girls starve themselves to get ahead is something that has never left Marchione, now a 33-year-old working as a full-figured model.

The Guelph woman is determined to help as many people struggling with eating disorders as she can by opening a centre in the city called Angela's House, which will be dedicated to providing support.

For the past seven years, Marchione has organized a walk-a-thon to raise funds for the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Eating Disorders Coalition and now she wants to do more.

"I decided I wanted to take bigger steps," Marchione said. "This is something I believe in with all my heart and feel I need to put all my energy into."

The money raised from this year's walk, which is scheduled for May 6 at the University of Guelph's arboretum, will go toward setting up the centre.

But it likely won't just be teenaged girls walking through the doors of Angela's House.

Research shows there is a growing number of women in their 40s and 50s seeking treatment for eating disorders.

"The number of middle-aged women suffering from first incidents of an eating disorder is a real concern," said Merryll Bear, director of The National Eating Disorder Information Centre.

"One of the problems with eating disorders being perceived as an adolescent disorder is that it is also perceived as just a phase, but it's a really serious illness."

Middle-aged women suffer from eating disorders for a variety of reasons,

she said. It could be poor self-image, using food as a way of coping with stress or relapsing because they haven't received the appropriate treatment.

Marchione said she is aware of the growing number of older women suffering from eating disorders and has no plans to limit support to just adolescents.

"I think educating our young people as early as possible is important. Girls can start showing signs of an eating disorder as young as nine," she said. "But I know there are also a lot of older women facing the same problems. They think their husbands will leave them if they don't lose weight or they have experienced something traumatic that triggers the disorder. Angela's House will be open to anyone who needs help."

Marchione is modelling Angela's House after an eating disorder support centre in Toronto called Sheena's Place. Sheena's Place offers education and support programs for people suffering from eating disorders and their

families at no cost and is solely funded by donations from individuals, corporations and foundations. The centre also acts as a link between people suffering from eating disorders and hospital-based programs, community agencies and therapists.

"Centres like Sheena's Place are essential for individuals who don't have anywhere else to turn," Bear said. "Support in recovering from an eating disorder is essential whether it is a peer group or professional help. One can recover fully from an eating disorder."

Marchione has spent the last seven months getting Angela's House up and running. She is looking at two possible properties in Guelph and has received charitable status for the centre. Marchione is working to find sponsors for the non-profit centre. Anyone interested in sponsoring or making a donation is asked to contact Marchione at 519-831-4377.

dhealey@guelphmercury.com



DARREN CALABRESE, GUELPH MERCURY
Angela Marchione wants to open a centre to support people suffering from eating disorders.

NOT EVERYONE'S SNOWED IN



Kveta Kolman passes cars buried in snow yesterday while cross-country skiing along London Road.

DARREN CALABRESE, GUELPH MERCURY

Guelph Hydro donates money to build country's first solar park

BY VIK KIRSCH
MERCURY STAFF

GUELPH

Guelph Hydro is throwing its support behind developing Canada's first solar park, the idea of a Rockwood entrepreneur.

Sunpark Energy Corp. founder Richard Mash is proposing a sea of solar cells, which convert sunlight to electricity, at a former dump or industrial site. His firm recently issued a "challenge" to corporate sponsors and individuals to help fund the park, which will demonstrate the potential for inexhaustible, pollution-free energy.

"It's a great idea," Guelph Hydro chief financial officer Peter Henderson said yesterday.

"We're committed to give them

some funding."

Henderson is convinced renewable sources like the sun will play a significant role in energy production in the future, particularly with the technology continuously improving. In the case of solar energy, banks of thin photovoltaic cells convert the energy in sunlight to power.

"This is an opportunity to provide support for technology," said Henderson, whose municipal utility will be providing \$500 a year for three years to the solar park.

Mash said that will help publicize the park with initiatives like public mailings and a website, at www.sunpark.ca.

"Essentially, they're supporting us in our marketing efforts," Mash said. But more than the money, having

the Guelph Hydro name attached to the project is "a coup for us," he said.

He's seeking about 100 corporate sponsors, each contributing roughly \$5,000 over three years, or about \$5 a day. He's also asking individuals to contribute \$25, the cost of a single solar cell.

So far, 10 firms have signed on and almost a dozen more have expressed interest, Mash said. About 1,200 people have made individual donations to date.

Guelph Hydro, the local power distribution utility, is active in the alternative energy field. Subsidiary Ecotricity Guelph, for example, operates a landfill gas energy plant at the Eastview landfill site in the city.

vkirsch@guelphmercury.com

LOCAL BRIEFS

GUELPH

Cops respond to 10 crashes in yesterday's big snowfall

As city residents woke up to a dump of snow yesterday morning, officers were out responding to several motor vehicle collisions.

According to Environment Canada, much of southwestern Ontario was covered by about 10 to 15 centimetres of snow. Officers here responded to at least 10 car accidents, the majority of which were early in the morning.

At about 5 a.m., a city snow plow heading south on Woolwich Street entered the intersection at Eramosa Road and lost control, mounting the centre traffic island and striking the light standard, police said.

The light standard was sheared off at the base and landed across the hood of the truck. The intersection was closed in all directions for several hours while emergency workers re-

moved and replaced the light standard. There were no injuries as a result of the collision. Damage is estimated at about \$13,000.

GUELPH

Man found guilty of dealing drugs

A Guelph man was found guilty yesterday of dealing drugs.

Darrell Deveau, 41, was charged with possessing cocaine for the purpose of trafficking after police found him last September in a house on Huron Street in possession of the drug.

Police found a silver spoon with a white substance on a dresser, along with two syringes containing liquid, which was determined to be the painkiller Oxycodone. Police also confiscated a baggie containing cocaine that was in Deveau's jeans.

Deveau is to be sentenced March 5.

•Mercury staff

Bewitching love story has been casting spells since the 1950s

Witches featured in play at the River Run

BY THANA DHARMARAJAH
MERCURY STAFF

GUELPH

Doug Beattie is brewing up quite the spell to cast on Guelph audiences.

The director of Guelph's only professional theatre company, Touchmark Theatre, hopes those who step into the River Run Centre this weekend will be transported to the world of witchery in 1950s Manhattan.

The company specializes in plays that aren't often performed on stage. This time around, he's tackling John Van Druten's romantic comedy "Bell, Book and Candle."

"It's great fun and charming in its

witchiness," he said yesterday. "It's a human story about a proud and a self-centred woman who seizes an opportunity for selfish reasons and then has to deal with the consequences and eventually finds out what it means to be vulnerable and loving."

Gillian Holroyd, played by Elana Post, is one of the finest and powerful witches in New York. She lives with her brother Nicky and her aunt Queenie. The family of witches keeps to themselves, not revealing their identity to others.

Gillian, who's looking for meaning in life and the possibility of love, puts a love charm on Shep, a handsome man who lives in an apartment upstairs.

"Gillian is in a rut," Beattie said. "She's disenchanted with her lot and she's looking for something different."

She takes Shep away from his fiancée and eventually he discovers the truth about how they fell in love and tries to leave her.

Beattie said Van Druten had a knack for understanding women and their relationships with men.

"It's very true in the writing, but has a light touch."

"Bell, Book and Candle" is one of Van Druten's more famous plays. His other plays include "I Remember Mama," "The Voice of the Turtle" and "I am a Camera."

Liza Balkan, who plays Aunt Queenie, said her character came into the world of witchery late and longs to live in that world.

"She's a bit of a butterfly who revels in magic and the witchery of Gillian," Balkan said.

One of Queenie's lines in the play sums it all up.

"I always knew I had something, but I thought it was artistic temperament," Balkan said, quoting her character. "I don't think I would've ever become a witch if my parents had let me go onstage."

It shows that Queenie revelled in extraordinary things, Balkan said.

She added that Beattie, as director, brought a great understanding of the script and made it a fun experience for the actors.

The play is filled with lots of humour, romance and love quarrels, Balkan said.

"It's the whole question about the

SHOWTIME

What: 'Bell, Book and Candle'
When: Opens tomorrow with performances running until Feb. 24
Where: River Run Centre
Time: 8 p.m.
Tickets: \$12-\$33
More information: 519-763-3000, www.riverrun.ca

magic of love," she said. "Is it all witchery? Is it coincidence? Is it fate?"

"Bell, Book and Candle" premieres tomorrow at 8 p.m. at the River Run Centre, with performances running until Feb. 24.

tdharmarajah@guelphmercury.com