

The Talk

Networking? Try Roaring Women

Dynamic group founded by Mandie Crawford gains momentum



SUZANNE BOURRET

It's a dynamic group of women — and they really do roar. The Talk found 70 of them at Liuna Station recently, and it was an energizing experience. Roaring Women is a women's business networking organization founded last year by **Mandie Crawford**, a Spectator GO columnist. She started with 12 women in Hamilton and now has 200 members across Canada. They're not all women, either. When more than 20 men begged to join, Mandie created associate memberships for men. "They thought it was a great idea because there is nothing like it for men." Members include mortgage advisers, retailers, restaurateurs, creative outdoor advertisers, jewellery-makers, real estate stagers — even a retailer of adult novelty toys. They exchange information, inspire



TED BRELLISFORD, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

From left, Mandie Crawford, Susan Valeri, Terri Smith, Colleen O'Hara, Heidi Cowie and Tamara Welbourn discuss Roaring Women at Liuna Station.

and support each other at monthly meetings. Last month when Mandie was the featured speaker and shared her difficulties, it sounded to The Talk like an Oprah program and the makings of a book. The group has started an educator's fund for women, which includes non-members, who need financial help to

take a course or program to advance themselves. **Susan Valeri** of Burlington announced she and a partner have launched an international all women's speaker's bureau — the first of its kind in Canada. It will provide speakers and entertainers for worldwide conferences and meetings. Its website is

www.outstandingwomenspeak.com. Mandie has a mantra "Where are they (the women)? Women are starting a business at twice the rate of men." She says \$2.5-trillion worth of business in the United States was created by women in the U.S. last year. "Women in the U.S. employ more people than all the Fortune 500 com-

panies in the world." Roaring Women's next meeting is Monday, Oct. 17, at Liuna Station. Contact Roaring Women at www.roaringwomen.com or call 1-888-726-3361. sbourret@thespec.com 905-526-3305

Artists, musicians celebrate new start at old church

The old church rocked right up to its cathedral ceiling to the big bad sound of **Tom Wilson**, **Bob Lanois** and **Russell Wilson**. And from the choir loft came an eclectic blend of **Glenn Miller**, the soundtrack from the Buena Vista Social Club, **The Chemical Brothers**, **Dean Martin** and **The Gypsy Kings**. About 100 celebrated a new beginning at Two + One + One, a centre for artists and musicians at the former Unitarian Church at 211 Locke St. S. **Paul Furlong** and his nephew, film maker, **Ryan Furlong**, are the new owners of the building, which will host actor's workshops, art exhibits, and concerts. **Roisin Furlong**, owner of ABUC-CUZ, a fine wine and spirits education, event planning and consulting company, served vodka in hand-crafted ice glasses, while Wilson, Lanois and company played a surprise set from their recent new CD,



TED BRELLISFORD, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

From left, Bob Lanois, Paul Furlong, New Zealand actress Katrina Devine, Ryan Furlong, Tom Wilson and Russell Wilson enjoy the launch party at the old church.

The Shack Recordings. And **Chris Houston**, of The Forgotten Rebels, followed up with a two-song set.

Actress **Jayne Eastwood** was expected, but had a last minute re-shoot.

Antique auction set for Thanksgiving

Down the street, the noise in another church will come from a new kind of auction — antique dealers who have expanded their business to include an estate service. Decades Collectibles, owned by **Patrick Dalton**, will hold a Thanksgiving auction tomorrow at 10 a.m. in St. Joseph's Church hall, at the corner of Herkimer and Locke streets. Antiques and collectibles will be sold from a large southwest Hamilton home. Previews start at 9 a.m. Dalton and his partner, **Jonathan Fairbanks**, launched Decades Estate Service last year. They clean out any residence and sell the contents at an auction. In addition to their store and auctions service, they offer a design service and an estate administration service. After the house, apartment or condo is cleaned out and the items are sold, they'll also redo the residence with furniture and accessories for it to



BARRY GRAY, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Jonathan Fairbanks, seated, and **Patrick Dalton**: a unique real estate service.

be sold. Proceeds from a coffee/sandwich bar at the auction will go to the United Way campaign.

Around Town

For submissions to *Around Town*, a photo feature of Hamilton-area arts, entertainment, charity, community and recreational events, e-mail information to gopeople@thespec.com three weeks before the event. Selected submissions will be published.

Photos by Ron Albertson, The Hamilton Spectator



Danny Morrison tends a barbecue at a Morris Avenue fundraiser which raised money for families left homeless after a fire.



Left, **Christina Peters**, 5, and **Courtney Cowe**, 8, turn a chest of drawers into a playtop at *Raise the Roof* on Saturday. Proceeds from the fundraiser went to three families left homeless by a fire in September.



The raffle table was the centre of attention as people checked out the items that were up for sale.



Sisters **Jennifer**, left, and **Crystal Burns** look over some items up for sale.