

Walk with Diefenbaker up for grabs at auction

By Kit Irving
Journal Reporter

An autographed Muhammed Ali comic book, a skating lesson from Lynn Nightingale, Karen Kain's favorite ballet slippers, the Fonz's personally signed T-shirt, Guy Lafleur's hockey stick, a slip from Sir John A. Macdonald's English Violet, a walk with John Diefenbaker and his dog McAndy, a pinball machine, an autographed book by Pierre Trudeau, lunch with Jean Pigott at the Phileas Fogg, two Grey Cup tickets . . .

These are but a sampling of the 80 or more treasures up for grabs at the third annual Celebrity Auction in aid of St. Brigid's Summer Camp on May 13 in the gymnasium next to St. Brigid's School at the corner of Springfield Road and Maple Lane.

Pipers and drums from the Ottawa Police Force Band will open the show at noon by parading up Springfield Road to the school. Comedian Fred Little and magician Dave Saunders have some special entertainment for the young and young at heart following the march, and at 1 p.m. Valley auctioneer Wayne Pratt will get the auction underway.

The camp is located near Low, Que.,

and is free to children in the Lower Town community (including Ottawa East to Lindenlea) regardless of religious affiliation. Parents who can, contribute to the upkeep of the camp. But the remaining funds needed are raised each year through community projects such as the celebrity auction.

Last year more than 600 girls and boys attended the five-day-a-week camp during the summer months. Begun six years ago by Rev. Ken Keeler, a priest at St. Brigid's Church at the time, the camp has given hundreds of youngsters in the core of the city a chance to enjoy the healthy outdoor activities of camp life.

The auction is described by one of the parent organizers JoAnne Chapman as "a family affair" complete with bake and craft tables, and balloons and pony rides to amuse the children. Camp leaders will be providing a babysitter service in the adjoining playground.

In 1977 the celebrity auction drew more than 500 people and made over \$7,000 for St. Brigid's Summer Camp. Chapman said that although it originated in St. Brigid's Parish the camp has become an ever-broadening community event.