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The McKenzie-Smith school choir was outstanding in the program.



The McKenzie-Smith school band was also on hand.



Pam Stewart sang "Let It Be".



Paddy Johnston played "Country Waltz."



Pam deMontmorency played "Fur Elise".

McKenzie-Smith talent terrific at annual show

The McKenzie-Smith Second Annual Tunes and Talents Concert was held last Tuesday and by all accounts the event was a tremendous success.

Most of the entertainment was provided by talented McKenzie-Smith students who tickled the ivory, plucked a few strings and generally blended together to give the audience a musical treat.

Top notch guest performers were also on hand for the evening as Scott Woods, an Ontario Fiddle Champion, had the crowd toe-tapping and hand clapping with original compositions and old favorites such as "Whiskey Before Breakfast."

The Royal City Ambassadors and the Speed River Junction Quartet highlighted the program with some of the best barber-shop music the town has heard since the last time they were here. Again, both the Ambassadors and the Speed River Quartet had the crowd hand-clapping and foot-stomping to renditions of many old favorites.

The McKenzie-Smith choir opened the talent show with "Commercials, Commercials," "The Guitar Man" and "I'd rather Be Sailing," three modern songs that started things off on an upbeat note.

Pam deMontmorency followed with a beautiful rendition of "Fur Elise" on the piano and then Cathy Coquard and Janine Robinson performed a duet on the piano called "The Old Banjo."

Paddy Johnston was next in the spotlight, performing "Country Waltz" on the violin and by all standards he did a fine job.

Lee Gallant then performed a solo on the piano of the Beatles hit "Yesterday."

Pam deMontmorency then returned to the stage with Kandi Hannah, Monique Bartlett and Denise Corcoran sang "Rainbow Connection," a tune made famous by the Muppet Movie.

Scott Woods was next on the agenda and then the Royal City Ambassadors and the Speed River Junction had their turn to enthrall the audience.

Paula Raine and Trine Fisker performed a tough, but surprisingly good, rendition of "Flashdance" and by using gymnastics and jazz dance the two performers gave the crowd a thrilling display of modern dance.

Next was the McKenzie-Smith school band who received a great deal of applause for their performance of "Chariots of Fire" and the theme from the movie "Superman."

Valerie Kekic followed with another piano solo, "Nadia's Theme" (more famously known as the theme music from the TV soap opera, "The Young and the Restless").

Then Monique Bartlett gave the audience a taste of classical piano with a performance of "Allegretto in C" followed by the two soloists getting together and playing "Melodie."

Pam Stewart closed the McKenzie-Smith talent part of the program with another solo effort, singing the Beatles song "Let It Be."

Scott Woods came back to thrill the audience with another display of championship fiddling and then, closing the show, the Royal City Ambassadors and the Speed River Junction Quartet sent the audience home humming more great barber-shop music.

All in all both the performers and the audience numbered at over 400, had a terrific time.

Town councillors Rick Bonnette and Dave Whiting though it was kind of funny why their colleague Ross Knechtel couldn't attend Friday's drop-in. Seems Ross was out of town picking a visitor up from the train. Had there been a stop in town, Ross wouldn't have had to miss the meeting. Just shows we need VIA to stop in town.

On the Leavell

With Helen

And speaking of VIA, if you work out of town and would use the trains if they stopped in Acton but you didn't get one of the questionnaires put out by the

Chamber of Commerce, don't despair. You can always make your voice opinions heard by writing a letter to one of your local councillors.

But it's too early!
An RR 3 Acton resident spotted a robin on Highway 7 last Wednesday at approximately 3.55 p.m. That is February 22, the earliest I have heard of them returning from their trip south.
Free Press sports writer Mark Holmes saw a Blue Jay, (that's the bird) on Friday, but not being avid bird watchers, neither of us knew whether that was

unusual.
When the folks down in Speyside throw a party, it seems they all get in the act. Besides having several people "roast" the departing owners of the General Store, John and Millie DeVries, all the goodies were donated by friends of the family. Don DeVries contributed all the flowers, including the floral arrangements on the table, corsages, etc., and his wife Margaret did all the arrangements.
Diane Jennings decorated the cake.

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