

Will Be Performing Arts Showcase?

'Transfusion of Changes' Saves Festival

PLANTS AND FLOWERS SAY



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Proclamation BOXING DAY HOLIDAY

Under the authority of a Resolution passed by Council, I am privileged to proclaim Friday, December 26th, 1969, Boxing Day in the Town of Georgetown, a legal holiday.

During the holiday season we urge you to exercise the care and courtesy while driving that will ensure a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for everyone.

MAYOR WHELDON ENMERSON

(3205)

North Halton Music Festival didn't die last week as some of the Association members feared when the general meeting began. Instead, it got a transfusion of changes that will give it a whole new lease on life.

Next spring the festival will again be held in the same way. However, a committee will be working on sweeping changes that will likely transform the traditional competitive music festival into a showcase for all the performing arts, both competitive and non-competitive.

SPECIAL MEETING

The special meeting of the North Halton Music Festival Association was called following the distribution of detailed questionnaires about the festival's fate to all north Halton schools, parents, representatives and organizations which give donations and interested individuals.

The well-attended meeting was held in the Robert Little school staff room in Acton.

At the last meeting of the Association in October those present had agreed that despite a healthy bank balance the festival could not continue in its present form. Replies to the questionnaire from schools agreed but a majority of sponsoring groups sent replies which indicated they would like the festival to continue in its present form.

14 OPPOSED

The problem has arisen with the disappearance in some schools of the itinerant music teacher as some sponsors replied they would like to see these music specialists returned, rather than a consultant supervising the classroom teacher. Several sponsors indicated the decision on changes should be made by the teachers and schools concerned.

There were 22 north Halton schools and 20 other groups, or individuals which replied to the questionnaires.

The principals' school reports showed 14 opposed to continuing the festival in its present

form, one in favour with reservations, and four with no opinion. (Not all these schools had participated previously.)

NON-COMPETITIVE

Yet in reply to the question asking if their school would compete in the next festival, 8 schools said yes and 12 no. The schools willing to participate had taken part in past years and represent about 3,000 students.

From these facts, the interested members of the Association devised the scheme of continuing the festival this year stressing the non-competitive concert following the usual competitive music classes to the evening concert, schools which had not sent singers to compete could send entries.

Discussed were the inclusion of an art display, orchestra, rhythm band or gym team.

PLOT CHANGES

The new executive was named with vice president Ray Morrison moving up to president. Past president is James Zehr. Ralph McKeown rejoined after several years as vice president. Returned to office were Mrs. Glenda Benton as secretary treasurer; Mrs. J. Frost as trophy convener and Mrs. S. Brunelle and Mrs. K. McPhail as assistants to the trophy convener.

When volunteers were sought to serve on the committee to plot future changes in the festival, those who promptly indicated their willingness were Jack Reed, Ken Trowbridge, W. D. E. Smith, Mrs. Frost and Mrs. McPhail. They have the power to add to their number for advice in specific fields, such as adding art or drama to the festival.

PUBLIC SUPPORT

For the festival next spring, classes and places must be changed due to the mechanics of accommodating numbers. It was stressed any schools which wished could enter the competition.

Mrs. Benton pointed out quite a few respondents to the

questionnaire — other than principals — had been in favour of competition.

It was in part the decisive replies in favour of a festival which prompted the group to wish to continue. Principal Smith of Acton, especially mentioned the support of the general public garnered over the years.

MISH MASH

Principal Trowbridge of Brookville "It was important to proceed in a familiar environment, and not try to include too many changes at once which could replace the usual competences at festivals with a 'mish-mash'."

Present at the meeting were principals, teachers, parent representatives and group representatives with Ken Seik, superintendent of program for the county, Ed Thorndyke, co-ordinator of creative arts for the county; George Houslander, assistant co-ordinator of creative arts and Ken Harrison, North Halton music consultant.

GEORGETOWN REP

Two representatives of Georgetown schools were present although Georgetown schools withdrew from the festival some years ago.

Mrs. Benton reported on a very successful meeting held in November, when the executive met with officials of the county. D. S. Lawless had said the association should decide its own future, but promised official support. He had indicated transportation costs could be arranged. He also felt parents should assist if they desired. He saw no reason why the festival should suffer because there are no itinerant music teachers, and that with the guidance of consultants, the teachers should be able to succeed.

CLEARED UP

"The meeting cleared up that the festival is not disappearing because of the new county board," she concluded.

Jack Reed expressed thanks to president Jim Zehr for a capable job during a 'trying' year and a half, and Mrs. Benton for a 'terrific' job.

Another general meeting will be called as plans for the festival progress.

LIMEHOUSE

25 Year Pins for Two W.I. Members

The W. I. Christmas meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Ted Brown on Tuesday evening with district president, Mrs. John Bird as a guest. The meeting conducted by president Mrs. Frank Brown was opened by singing "We wish you a Merry Christmas" and a special prayer.

Roll call was answered by naming an outstanding W. I. event in 1969. A donation was voted toward the hospital for Sick Children.

Mrs. Gisby introduced Mrs. Bird, who spoke on public relations. During her comments she suggested a W. I. hall of fame. Mrs. Gisby and Mrs. Noble related some highlights of W. I. activities of Mrs. Edward Sanford and Mrs. Frank Brown and Mrs. Bird presented their 25 year certificates and pins.

Current events were read by Mrs. A. W. Benton. Mrs. Frank Brown read a well prepared explanation of the motto, "Let the W. I. enrich our lives, not wear us out." Mrs. Stringer read a Christmas item. Mrs. Bird read a letter of appreciation from Dr. Ethel Chapman following her day at Campbellville.

During the Christmas treat lunch time Mrs. Roughley played a piano solo "Chapel Chimes".

The WMS met at the home of Mrs. A. W. Benton on Thursday evening with 10 attending. President Mrs. Mitchell presided and read scripture, and Mrs. Sanford led in Prayer. Each lady read a poem or story following the Christmas theme.

Text word "exalt" and roll call were answered by a verse of scripture. Mrs. Bert Benton accompanied herself when she sang a Christmas carol.

The treasurer reported a good year financially. Mrs. Mitchell thanked all, especially vice president Mrs. Roughley, for their co-operation during the year.

A properly managed forest will remain healthier, produce more trees and have a much better chance of remaining a healthy forest than one in which cutting is prohibited.

Officers for 1969 were re-instated for the coming year. Mrs. Roughley obliged with her piano solo, "Chapel Chimes" and the Lord's Prayer closed the meeting. The hostess served lunch afterwards.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Patterson visited relatives at Brantford a week ago Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Chalkin of

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Richmond Hill visited Mr and Mrs. D. Batten during the weekend.

The Sunday School teachers at Limehouse Presbyterian Church entertained the children at a Christmas party on Sunday

— Mrs. A. Benton

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