

# Edgar finds it's hard to be a nasty Scrooge

Herald Special

Ebenzer Scrooge...crusty, small-hearted, miserably cheap. He's the embodiment of avarice and frugality; not one of the most likeable characters in the history of fiction, but certainly one of the most unforgettable! Who has braved the challenge of portraying Charles Dickens' infamous skin-flint in Georgetown Little Theatre's production of A Christmas Carol? Edgar Thatcher!

Edgar's fascination with Scrooge goes back to Grade 4, when the play was performed at Pineview Public School. Although his involvement in that production was disappointingly minimal, Edgar continued to secretly cherish the role of Scrooge, and couldn't resist trying out for the part when he discovered GLT was going to present the Dickens classic. He was a trifle surprised when he actually landed the role (after all these years!), and is deriving much pleasure from it.

This is Edgar's first performance with GLT. He is primarily a professional musician with The Edgar James Company, a musical duo who have performed in colleges and universities across Ontario and eastern Canada. A talented guitarist/singer/songwriter, Edgar has written, produced and performed in - with four other cast members - a musical variety entitled The Trouble With Growing Up Is... which played for benefit in both Georgetown and Oakville.

Edgar has also come close to obtaining movie-star status: he played a photo double for the posse leader in Mrs. Soffel, a slightly-less-than-well-known movie which starred Mel Gibson and Diane Keaton. (Can Hollywood be next, Edgar?)

Having a naturally friendly, sunny disposition, Edgar finds it "hard to be nasty" as Ebenzer Scrooge. He says good directing, and the inspiration of Alistair Sim (who played Scrooge in the classic film version) are what he's leaning on to round out his characterization. Edgar relishes the humorous bits in the play, and describes its musical score as: "brilliant, with catchy, witty, wonderful songs".

And indeed, they are!  
The charm and life brought into



The Georgetown Little Theatre will delight youngsters when they present A Christmas Carol at the John Elliott Theatre Dec. 11-13. The age-old story tells of the miserly Scrooge, and members of the cast include Suzanne Brown and Ashley Windsor as Bob and Mrs. Cratchit

the music is, of course, due largely to the adults and children who perform it with such arresting animation; but it is also due to the patience and instruction of Barbara Jack, who has freely given much of her time to add sparkle and polish to the melodies.

This is Barbara's first work for GLT, but she has been involved in choir work for the last 19 years, as well as writing a lot of children's music for school plays, including one called The Dandyllion which played in Toronto. Along with Dr. Adrian Hobart, she has written the music and lyrics for a Christmas Cantata

and Kevin Spears as Tiny Tim. The play will be presented Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. One showing will be held Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m., and there will be two showings on both Dec. 12 and 13, at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. For ticket information, call 877-3700. (Herald photo)

(Journey of Destiny) which will be performed by the joint choirs of Knox Presbyterian Church and St. John's United Church this year. She is also the organist and choir leader for Knox Presbyterian. As a professional, Barbara teaches.

This is truly a family treat, worthy of one's time. If you'd like to partake of the pleasure of refreshingly light and merry music, and view the captivating portrait of Edgar Thatcher's Scrooge, contact the box office at 877-3700. The play will be performed on Dec. 11, 12 and 13, so be sure to obtain your tickets soon!

## Legion Lines

By JIM HAYES

The Branch mourns the passing of our comrade Ethel Murray, an active member of the Branch and the Ladies Auxiliary. Ethel served in the Royal Air Force during W.W.II. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family in their grief.

**NEWS YEARS EVE:** The Branch will be holding a New Year's Party in the auditorium at a cost of \$40 per couple, we will also be holding a party downstairs at a cost of \$15 per couple. Both events will be served food, and have party favours. Tickets will be available at the bar this week, members only.

**CAR CLUB:** Nov. 26 draw, winners - 236 Dick Success; 498 Len Buntin; 442 Joan Herrington; 109 Ace Bailey; 38 Helen Sparks; 46 Trudy Paul.

**FRIDAY NIGHT EUCHRE:** winners - Ladies 1st. Floss Tracy; 2nd. Lois Richardson; Booby Dorothy Barr. Men 1st. Mike Brown; 2nd. Lorne Hammond; Booby Oliver Scragg.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON MEAT DRAW:** Winners - Ab Ford; David Bell; Dennis Van Wyck; Joan Brown; Sheri Norton; Bill Barber; Doug Harlow; Kieth Tost; Terry Bludd; Friend Garbutt; Bob Waltes. The winner of the roast was Rick McIven.

**SPORTS:** The winners of the Sam Gishy Memorial Trophy on Saturday afternoon were - Herman Nicholson and Jim Doucette. Congratulations to our new Shuffleboard Champions.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** In the Lounge, Dec. 5, Daniel Bruce. In the Clubroom Dec. 12, Mini-Bingo and music by Bob and Corey.

**CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Gord King is looking for those draw tickets, we have not yet turned in.

Zone B7 Convention is Dec. 6 at Branch 197, Acton, 1:30 p.m.

## Legion ladies

By MID BRUNSKI  
Herald Special

It is with sadness to report that our friend and comrade, Ethel Murray passed away this past week. Ethel will always be remembered as a dedicated member of our auxiliary as well as a veteran of our branch. We send our deepest sympathies to the family.

Anne Nicholson reports the open dart tournament on Friday was

### A Tasty Recipe

#### AUNT MARIONS THRIFTY CHRISTMAS PUDDING

**SPECIALS**

- GLAZED CHERRIES \$2.45/LB.
- WALNUT CRUMBS \$2.59/LB.
- Jumbo PURE CHOCOLATE CHIPS \$1.99/LB.

• 1 cup each grated raw potato and grated raw carrot  
• 1 cup mixed fruit or raisins  
• 1 cup candied cherries  
• 1 scant cup sugar  
• 1/2 cup shortening  
• 1 cup all purpose flour  
• 1/2 tsp. each salt, cloves, soda, nutmeg and allspice  
• 2 tsp. cinnamon

Cream the shortening and sugar. Add the prepared fruit and vegetables and sifted dry ingredients. Turn mixture into a greased mold or bowl. Cover closely and steam for 3 hours.

Serves 10. May be made weeks in advance. Sauce recipes next week.

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| BEE GEE<br>Cooked Shrimp Rings<br>40 Shrimp Approx<br><b>\$14.99</b> box | COHENS<br>Famous Hors d'Oeuvres<br>Pate, Beef and Spinach, Puffs, Egg Rolls, Corned Beef, French Meat & Sauce<br><b>50/\$20.99</b> |

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## PSYCHODRAMA: Acting out 'the roles of their lives'

By MARY-LIZ SHAW  
Herald Staff

The role of your life. It may not be the dream of every actor to write the script of his own life. But, to a special group of teenagers in Georgetown, acting out what they feel from their own experiences is a way of discovering who they are.

The young people are members of a psychodrama group, founded in Georgetown by Life Skills counsellor Kristen Bulmer and the second of its kind in Ontario.

Psychodrama was first used as a form of psychotherapy by J.L. Moreno, a Viennese psychiatrist and contemporary of Sigmund Freud. He realized the value of allowing people to express their feelings directly rather than just talking

about them.

"Acting it out is a perfect catharsis," Kris Bulmer said. "And the best part is that no one is going to say you're silly or you're an idiot for feeling the way you do; everybody participates."

Although psychodrama was originally used as an alternative to adult group therapy, Kris Bulmer said she felt the principle could apply to adolescents. Her own counselling experience focusses on young people with drug abuse or family problems.

The Halton Youth Theatre Ensemble (HYTES) is made up of about 14 young people between 15-years-old and 20-years-old, first formed last spring. Kris Bulmer notified Bev Scruton of the Open Door and word reached the students in school.

Since then, the troupe has met once a week and has been performing original 15 to 20-minute plays at CHICKEN Club and "Just Say No" rallies and local middle schools.

Kris Bulmer stresses that the group is eclectic; each person is there for a different reason. "Some have had trouble with the law, family problems, personal problems," she said. "Some of them just came to learn why they feel the way they do at times."

Hytes is based on a Toronto theatre troupe known as KYTES, founded by Kevin Lee, an acquaintance of Kris Bulmer. When HYTES began, Kevin Lee offered valuable advice and Kris Bulmer has continued to keep in contact with him ever since.

The strength of the program is that it provides security and understanding and a strong sense of camaraderie.

"It means you always have somebody to talk to," said Ken Jones, a Grade 13 student at Georgetown High School. He has been a stalwart member of the group since it began. He will be entering McMaster University in the fall to study social work. "It means that if you go home to an empty house, you feel secure. You always feels wanted," Ken Jones added.

The success of the pilot group has prompted Kris Bulmer to approach various groups for financial support to start a regular psychodrama day program. A plan is also in the works to try psychodrama therapy at Maplehurst, a correctional institute in Oakville.

### Friends helping friends

## Drama therapy is working

Jason and Izy look like "unlikely companions. Jason is excitable, jovial and dressed in denim. Izy is calm, cool, collected and dressed in a clingy black skirt. She has orange hair, topped with a man's wool cap.

But, Izy and Jason, along with 12 other young adults who belong to a psychodrama therapy group, are about as close as two friends can get.

Each week students "check in," each offering a brief description of what happened during the week. If a particularly hurtful or bothersome event has occurred, Kris Bulmer might suggest the group act it out. A key to coping with the problem is acting out various roles. A group member may first play himself, then he might, in the next instant, play the role of his father, teacher or whoever he may

have had the confrontation with.

"There is always someone in the group who knows where you're coming from," Izy said.

Kris Bulmer understands the concept of mutual peer support. A former street kid in Toronto and Vancouver, Kris Bulmer eventually came to grips with her own problems through the help of her family and friends. A trained nurse and counsellor, Kris Bulmer has been helping people ever since.

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