



The Milton Horticultural Society in partnership with the Town of Milton has entered the 2000 Communities In Bloom competition, Canada's program to recognize community participation in projects involving beautification, heritage, and environmental awareness.

One of our local goals this year is to increase awareness and to further involve the community in this program, and this column will be one strategy to help communicate information about the program. We are thankful to Loblaws who has agreed to sponsor this column, which will be appearing bi-weekly, highlighting ways you can get involved and help in this community project.

Our municipality will be competing against other communities in Ontario who are in the population category 20,001-50,000. Entries are judged based on the municipality's success in meeting the program's objectives of involving all levels of the community in programs of urban beautification. Emphasis is placed on the variety and use of trees, shrubs, and flowers, the appearance and upkeep of private and public green spaces and residential gardens, environmental awareness, tidiness, and the care and protection of heritage buildings and sites.

The local contest is for citizens, business owners, and public institutions in the municipality and the appeal is more than visual. As important as visual aesthetics are, the real strength of the program lies in the social and health impact participation has in building a sense of pride through community involvement. Look for our next column, which will feature how you can get involved in the "Milton in Bloom 2000 Awards Program".

If you would like to find out more information, or would like to offer support or join our committee, please contact Joy Anderson, in the Community Services Department, Town of Milton at 702-3143 or contact Jennifer Mirosolin, Milton Horticultural Society at 878-3597.

Written by Joy Anderson

Communities in Bloom is generously supported by:

LOBLAWS MARKET
LOCAL FRESHNESS A WORLD OF CHOICE

Garden Centre
Opening Soon!

73 Nipissing Rd., Milton
875-4999

Arts & Entertainment

Players giving audience 'Jitters'

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

When the curtain goes up, every actor worth his or her salt gets the jitters. So it's no surprise someone finally wrote a play about it.

That play, appropriately entitled *Jitters* and penned by Canadian playwright David French, is a hilarious, behind-the-scenes peek at a theatre company.

Presented by the Milton Players, it will run May 5 and 6 and May 10 to 13 at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre on Childs Drive. It will also be the last show of the group's 20th anniversary year.

That means there will be a gala night performance on Saturday, May 6. Formal wear is encouraged, and when the final curtain drops, actors and audiences can kick up their heels and dance what's left of the night away.

But despite the show's hilarity, actors find *Jitters* remarkably realistic, said director Susan Cranford.

"It's a very funny play and the audience will think a lot of the things happening are outrageous," she said. "But it's true to life. We've been there and done that."

Despite that, Ms Cranford won't give a clear comment on the plot. That's because a shocker of some description takes place in the first act and like any good director,

she's loathe to give it away.

"It becomes apparent to the audience in the first five minutes and it's basically about an acting company," she offers as a compromise. "It'll give people an idea of what goes on in making a play."

The show is a fast-paced, ensemble romp featuring six seasoned theatre veterans and three actors who have never before emoted in the footlights. That creates a challenge for a director, but it's good news for long-time audiences.

"I think it's good from their perspective to see the fresh faces," said Ms Cranford.

The large cast on a relatively small stage can create some blocking headaches for the director. But it also makes for sizzle in spades.

"It really comes to life," said Ms Cranford. "It's timing. A lot of it is done in facial expressions, a look or a double take."

Jitters is light, it's funny, and the Players are hoping it has what it takes to bring residents to the show.

But deciding what play to put on is always a wrenching task. And in community theatre, the real crowd-pleasers tend to be better known plays.

"We're constantly trying to come up with a formula to bring audience's up," said Ms Cranford. "What play you're doing seems to make the biggest difference."

For details call 875-0629.

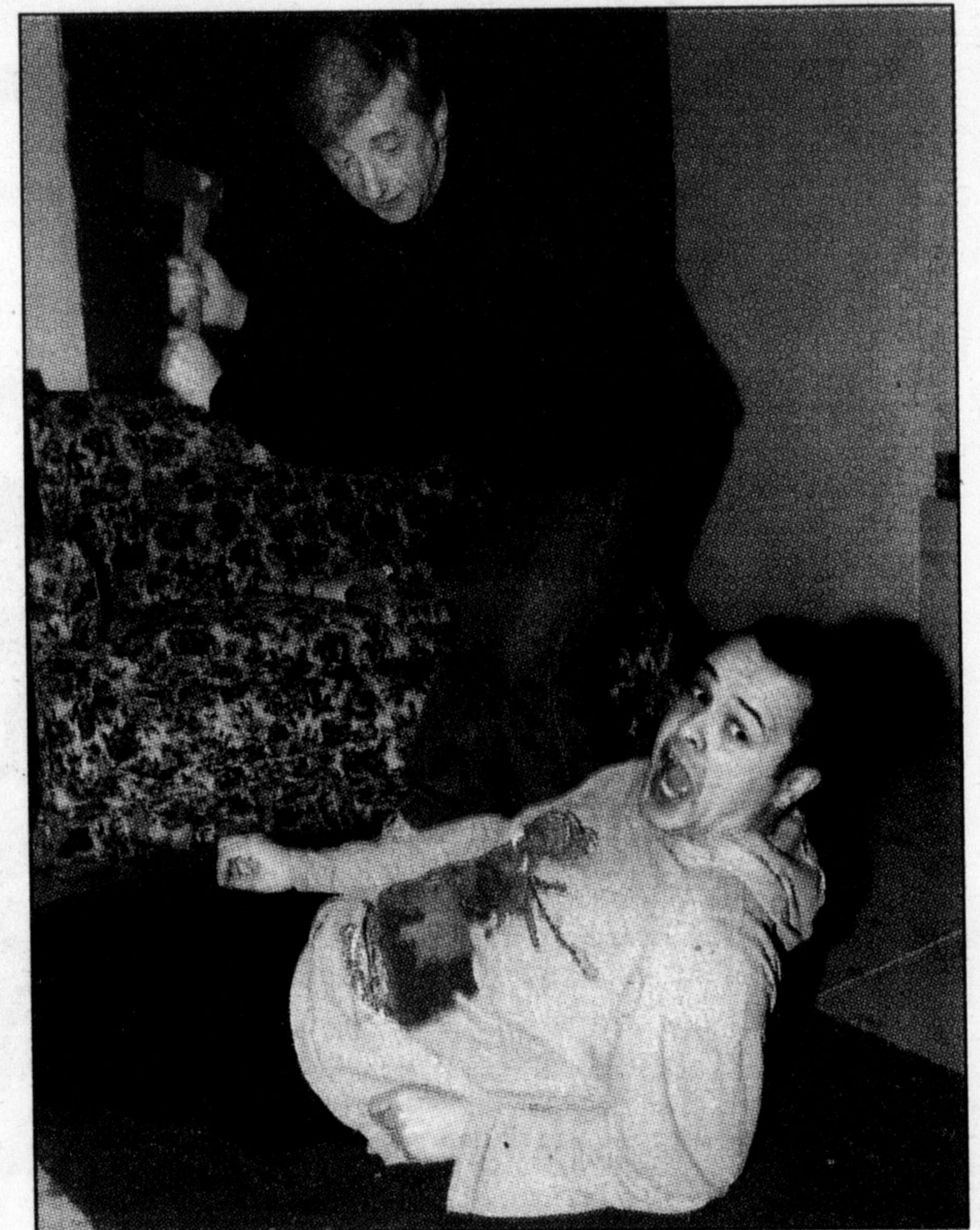


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Jitters is a play that shows audiences a realistic and hilarious view of what goes on behind the scenes at a theatre company. Here, Geoff Ford, who plays Nick, swings an axe over Tom Kent played by Jorge Moniz.

In Concert at Milton

Tredegar Orpheus Male Voice Choir

Wales' Premier Choir

Established in 1909, in Tredegar, this 50 voice choir is on its first Canadian tour. It is appearing in Milton by special arrangement through family members. Some city appearances are already sold out.

Wed. May 3, 2000
7:30 p.m.

St. Paul's United Church
123 Main St. Milton, Ont.
Tickets \$15, Seniors/Students \$12

— Available from —
Joyce Hayward 878-6790; Carol Clarke 854-9828;
Peggy's in Milton Mall; Delacourt's Downtown Milton
and at The Canadian Champion, 191 Main St. Milton

Sponsored by MSAC Song Spinners Chorus and St. Paul's Towards 2000
Major Sponsorship in recognition of its 140th Anniversary serving Milton by **The Canadian Champion**

WHAT'S ON IN MILTON!

The Dickens 189 Mill Street 878-6680
Call & Book Our Upstairs for your Special Occasion

KFC 276 Main St. 878-4171
15 PIECE BUCKET \$14.99

Charley FitzWhiskey's TAP & EATERY
55 Ontario St. W. 878-6697
Join Us For Easter Sunday Brunch

Kelso's Express Lunch: 15 Minutes or FREE
45 Chisholm Dr. 876-4731

Mohawk Inn Hwy. 401 & Guelph Line Milton/Campbellville
854-2277
Easter Sunday Brunch & Dinner Specials - All Weekend Long

Super Submarine 12" Assorted Sub with pop \$4.35 + tax
LIMITED TIME OFFER
466 Steeles Ave. E.

A Coffee &
The Canadian Champion
...the best way to start your day!