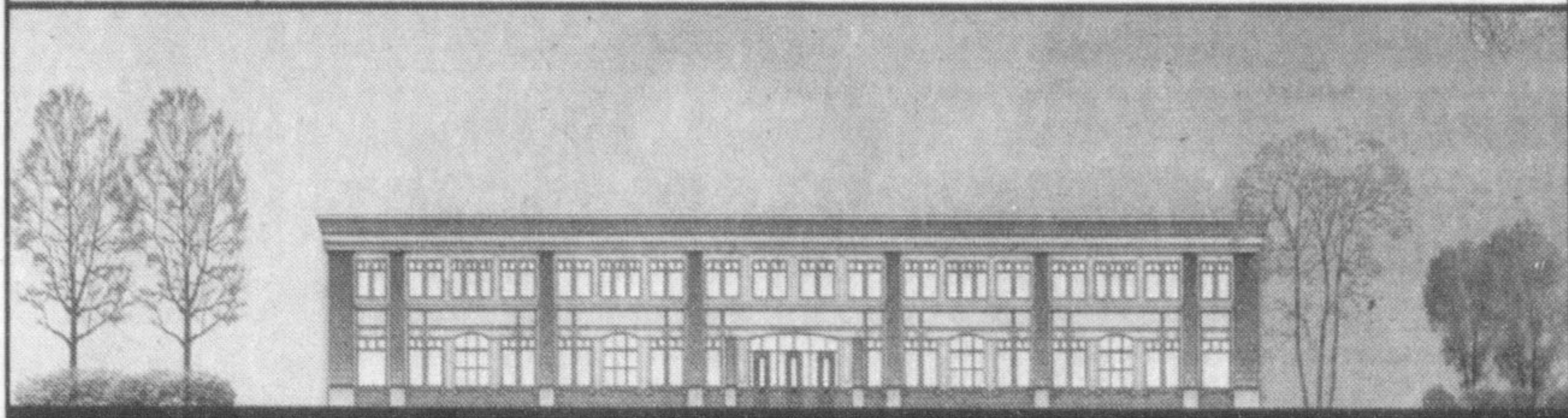




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Show takes off

• from MUSICAL on page B1

to design a show around a bunch of characters that had already been created but who didn't yet have personalities or stories. They agreed.

The 40-minute show contains five songs, which are pre-recorded, and the characters 'lip sync' to them. There are three live speakers as well. Di Giorgio and Grates decided to have each character hail from a different province.

The grand finale is the end-of-camp talent show put on by the characters (Di Giorgio refuses to call them mascots, which he says is a four-letter word. "They're real," he insists).

"This is the first time the Ex has done something like this. This is an experiment for them," Di Giorgio said.

As Promised Productions has a three-year deal with the CNE. Next year's show will be based on the same characters as this year, and then, hopefully, Di Giorgio and his partner will write a new show.

Writing music comes naturally to him, Di Giorgio said. "It's magic," he said of the creative process. "I'm constantly composing, especially when I drive. When I need to put together a song, I go through the rolodex (of ideas) in my mind."

As a high school student, Di Giorgio said he had some teachers "who really believed in me," prompting him to take music composition at York University.

After a variety of jobs, he realized he wanted to teach music. "The reason I'm a music teacher now is I've done everything else and know what I don't want to do," he said, laughing.

He said he's got lots of ideas for his new students up his sleeve.

"I'm going to try to make it (music) more relevant to the kids at E.C. Drury and shock them all a bit."

Di Giorgio said he's looking forward to giving his students the same encouragement he received from his teachers, and the same encouragement AL-EX gives the campers.

For more information about As Promised Productions and a video clip of the shows, visit www.aspromisedproductions.com.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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