



Got the message?

This flashing sign was spotted just off Lucy Street near Robert Street West in Penetanguishene earlier this week.

Seems Vic (?) was celebrating a birthday. What a birthday card!

Curtain up

First-nighters have a treat: 'Jitters' to be staged at MSS

by Mary Haskill
"Jitters" by David French, is Huronia Players next production slated for February 12, 13, 19 and 20.

Casting took place the first week of December and, save for the holidays, Director Mark Warrack has had his cast hard at work rehearsing four nights a week. As a result the production is shaping up well. The last few weeks will see lines polished, characterization and pace firmly established -- all necessary for the top-notch performance the Players hope will bring at least an honorable mention, if not an award, in the Association of Community Theatres Festival. Adjudication will take place the last night of the production, February 20th.

"Jitters" is the story of a Canadian theatre company and the premiere of a play written by a fellow Canadian. An influential New York critic will be in the opening night audience. Naturally, everyone from the playwright on down, has the jitters. It is a comedy, yes, but it is also a revealing behind the scenes view of Canadian theatre.

The cast chosen by Warrack is an interesting combination of talents and experience. The lead roles are played by Huronia Players favourites, Bill

and Joan Hanna, as Jessica and Patrick. Chris Thomson is cast as Phil, a comic role eminently suited to his talents. Tom, the fledgeling of the stage company, is also a newcomer to Huronia Players, David Allen.

The director of the play within a play is George, played by Frank Milligan. He is assisted by a stage manager, Nick, portrayed by Frank Holm. Mike McVittie is the anxious playwright, Robert. The balance of the "stage back-stage" crew consists of Dorothy McCallion and Deborah Hallyburton as Peggy and Susi.

Watch for the specially designed posters.

\$100,000 shot in the arm for downtown

Allan McLean (MPP-Simcoe East) announced this week on behalf of Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Claude Bennett that Midland has received an advance of \$100,000 for a downtown upgrading project under Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Program.

The advance represents two-thirds of the loan that the province is contributing to assist Midland in a beautification project. The plan includes street lighting and sidewalk renovations and the installation of decorative banners, street furniture, and planters with trees, shrubs and flowers.

The main street program is designed to help communities with a population of 35,000 or less upgrade and improve downtown areas using the business improvement area (BIA) as a starting point.

(BIA is a device whereby merchants and business people can, under the Municipal Act, designate and tax themselves for improvements to street-scapes and related facilities.)

To qualify a municipality must have:

- a maximum population of 35,000 as of the date of application
- an approved official plan
- a property maintenance and occupancy standards bylaw
- demonstrated support by council and

the public at large - an active BIA.

In addition, the town must demonstrate that it has the necessary financial and administrative resources to oversee a project.

The Main Street Revitalization Program

is one of the province's actions to assist municipalities and the private sector in community improvement programs. These programs also include downtown revitalization and the Ontario Neighbourhood Improvement Program.

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