

Mumberley Inheritance needs audience participation

by Mary Haskill

"That was fun!" was the comment most often heard in the lobby after The Mumberley Inheritance last weekend. Although not a large audience, folks seemed to enjoy Huronia Players first attempt at melodrama.

The Mumberley Inheritance, or His Substance Frittered, is the last play in Huronia Players 1985-6 season. It will run again this coming weekend, May 16, 17, at Midland Secondary School. Curtain at 8 p.m.

Funny thing about last weekend - even though folks were invited to boo the villain nobody did to any extent. Saturday night's audience was a bit more responsive with a few members of the Players to egg them on. Are local people too polite? Shy? Or were they too involved in the story unfolding on the stage or afraid of missing some of the good one-liners? Anyway - if you plan to go

next weekend, let yourself go! The actors will be disappointed if you don't. Boo the villain, cheer the hero and sigh over the tender moments.

The Mumberley Inheritance was billed in the old style as "presenting the largest array of talent ever seen in melodrama." The Players lived up to their billing.

John Hansler didn't miss a trick as the old-time villain, Marmaduke Mayhem, with his furtive movements, leering laugh and grasping claw-like gestures. Jacques Brunet was exactly opposite as the fine upstanding hero, Rodney Stoutheart. Julia Morrell played Daphne Mumberley superbly. Equally good was Kimberley Shirazee as Polly Dumpling. Both had complete mastery of the gestures and poses assumed by young women way back when.

Ron Trindorfer was quite believable as Jack

Mumberley, the long lost brother from the Canadas. It is his first stage role and he earned extra applause from time to time as did others in the cast.

Sir Roger Mumberley was played by Jack Scott. The character is that of a foolish and ailing old man - a comic role. Scott managed to give it depth as well. By the end of the play, Sir Roger was a man you knew very well.

As played by May Williams, Dotty the maidservant, was far from being a minor character. It is difficult to maintain a character when one is off and on the stage over and over again. That didn't stop May from giving one of the best comic performances of her career with the Players. The same goes for Elmer Vuormaki as Crispin Cringe, the victim of circumstances who was forced to do Mayhem's dirty work. Folks just loved them!

Stephen Hartnell is to be

congratulated for his direction of a play. The Hartnell touch is apparent throughout the production. He designed and made most of the costumes including the handsome blue and white worn by Rodney

Stoutheart. The posters and program in keeping with the period are also Hartnell's work.

The play was staged with black curtains and set pieces unbelievably light and uncluttered but quite

believable as Mumberley Manor.

Nancy Caps is billed as Emotional Director. Her flying fingers provided theme music for each character and set the mood of each scene.

Equally helpful was the well-timed sound and lightning flashes of Bradley Cook. Under Raymond Holt, Cliff Bradshaw and Cliff Warren took care of the lighting in a very capable manner.



A visitor from Fiji

Mohammed Rafiq, a visiting teacher from Fiji, displays some Fijian currency to Sacred Heart School students, Elizabeth Milne, Sam Norton and Dawn Lalonde. The

Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board sponsored his appearance next week in Ottawa at an international English teachers' conference.

Welcome to Midland banners to promote town cost \$100

The decorations committee of the Midland BIA is soliciting \$100 contributions from industries and service groups, to pay for Welcome to Midland banners.

The banner idea is part of a BIA campaign to promote the town, both to visitors and to residents.

"We are proud of our Town and we feel that as the focal point of the community, we should let everyone coming into our community know just how proud we are," Sharon

Park, BIA decorations committee chairperson says, in a letter to the Town council.

"This summer marks the beginning of an aggressive and innovative program, we have received grants for two full time employees during the summer. We have purchased uniforms for them so that they may easily be identified as they will be on the street at all times. We are offering clean sidewalks and area, as well as a friendly hello and courteous answers to questions."

"Our slogan, Can We Help You?, will be a genuine offer. We want visitors and our own residents to feel that Midland cares and can offer you the very best."

The banners the decorations committee is hoping to get would be hung from the flag poles in the town's centre. The Town is being asked to sponsor a banner at the cost of \$100.

The decorations committee wants to erect a board at a "focal point downtown with the names of those who have sponsored a banner as a notice of appreciation."

The banners would be a sign that Midlanders have the spirit of co-operation and a sense of pride, Parks says in her letter.

As of last Friday four local companies had indicated they would buy a banner. Twenty-four banners can be hung from the downtown flag poles. The banners will be put in place in two or three weeks. Letters describing the idea were mailed last week. "There's quite a bit of interest," BIA manager Liz Downer said. "It's first come, first served."



Sister, is that really you?

St. Theresa's High School students were only too happy to help their principal, Sister Marlene Kelly, fulfill a promise. Sister Kelly told the students she would have her hair done punk-style if the

students sold \$7,000 of magazine subscriptions. The idea was teacher Rick Presse's. His turn might come. Presse becomes the school vice-principal in the fall.

Questions about four faces?

Is your child a rebel, a high achiever, a social leader or a creative individual? Which one are you? Does this cause conflict or harmony within your family? These questions and more will be answered this Thursday evening at a workshop and information session sponsored by ABC

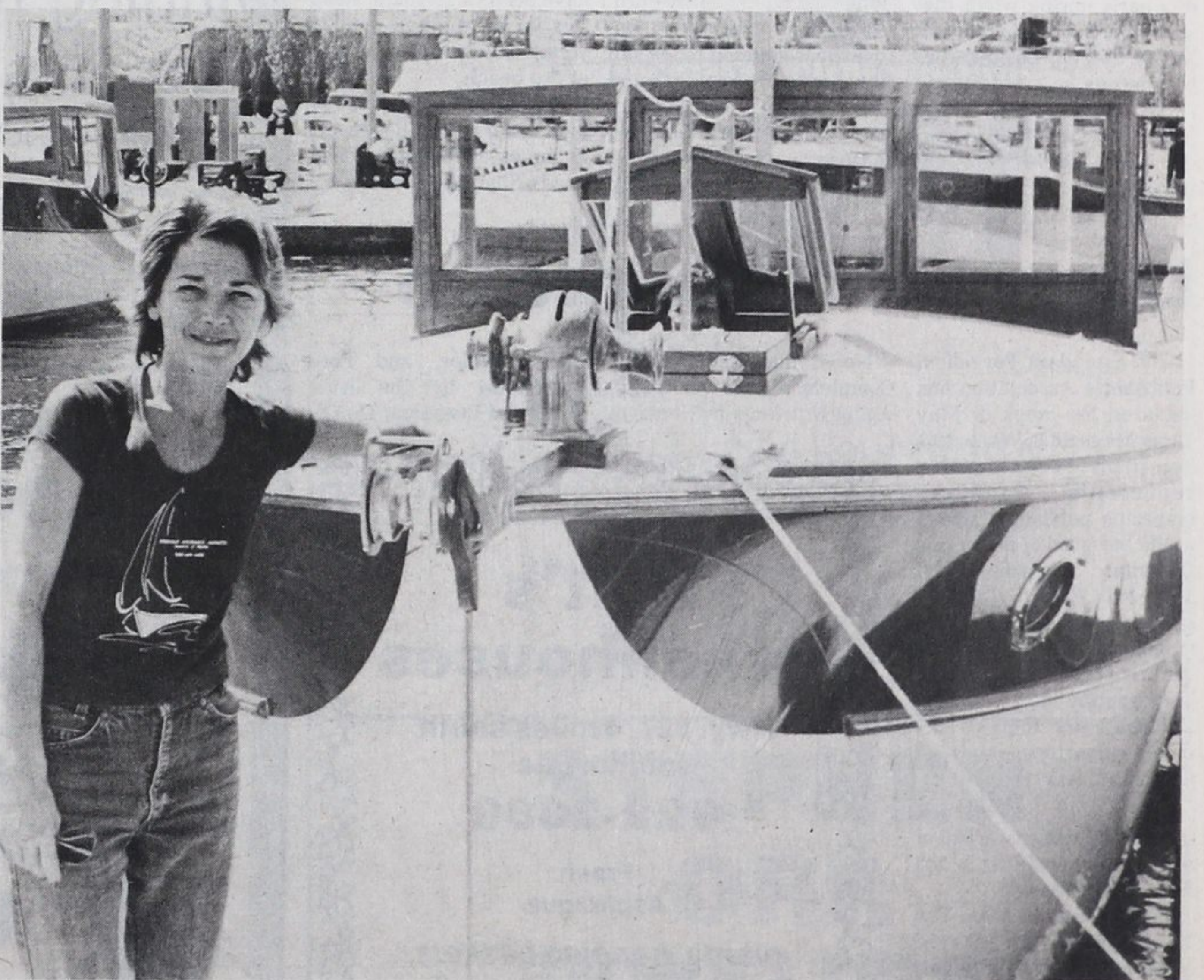
(Association for Bright Children).

This workshop will be conducted by Wayne Richards, Enrichment Resource Teacher with the Simcoe County Board of Education. His material is based on the findings of Elizabeth Drews.

ABC welcomes parents,

teachers and all those interested in the needs of bright and gifted children. There are now 16 active members in the new Midland Chapter.

This month's meeting and workshop will be held May 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Huron Park School, Robert St Midland.



Powerboat attracts former sailboat owner

Johanna Sandham of Toronto stands at the bow of her new Scout 30 last Saturday. The marine insurance specialist took possession of her new boat last Wednesday. The Midland made power boat which evokes the

memory of 1920's classic yachts, made a power boat convert of a former sailboat owner. Manufacturers Scout Motor Yachts Ltd. describe the Scout 30 as a fuel efficient motor cruiser.