

Even skeptic enjoys most of The Nutcracker

Michael Couper, of 93 Morgan Avenue, Thornhill, a grade 5 student at E. J. Sand Public School, attended a recent children's matinee performance of The Nutcracker at O'Keefe Centre, Toronto. He wrote this review for The Liberal.

By Michael Couper

I was very fortunate to be one of the many students attending The Nutcracker Suite, put on by the National Ballet Company of Canada.

The first scene takes place where some children are fooling around in front of a house. Inside, there is a party taking place.

The children are invited in and start to play games and dance. All of a sudden, two men appear and give gifts to all of the children.

When all of the gifts are opened they continue with their merry-making. One girl starts to dance, holding a nutcracker. One of the boys starts to chase her. He finally catches her and grabs the nutcracker away and starts to jump on it.

The girl was very sad that her gift was broken.

Later on that night she got up to go downstairs and suddenly a mouse appears. She is so horrified that she throws herself onto the sofa. In time, the mouse left.

The girl got up and helped the poor, hurt nutcracker to his feet. Then everything grew and the mouse appeared again, this time, to fight with the nutcracker.

The mouse was just about to win, when the girl gets a cat and kills the mouse.

Then, as soon as the mouse is dead, the nutcracker turns into a handsome prince. He takes the girl back to the palace with him, in turn for what she did for him.

(Next came the intermission, but we were back in our seats in 15 minutes flat.)

Anyway, at the palace the girl is entertained by dancers from



Michael Couper
E. J. Sand student

different countries and after that, there were many ballet numbers.

I think everything was absolutely fantastic except for the last part of the second half. It got a bit boring because of all the straight ballet.

I could tell the audience agreed with me because of all the mumbling and shuffling going on.

The part I enjoyed the most was the dances from different countries, especially the Arabian dance, put on in the prince's palace.

The audience was very responsive, for the most part. The costumes were very colorful and the dancing terrific.

Something has to be said for the orchestra because the music was superb. I would recommend it for anyone over six years old.

If you have any objections to what I have said, don't mind it because I'm not keen on ballet and, besides, I had the fifth row from the back.



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Thornhill historical group to meet on Yonge widening

The Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill is holding a meeting January 8 to discuss the widening of Yonge Street. This is an important issue to everyone in Thornhill so please attend if at all possible. It will be at St. Vladimir's Church at 8 p.m.

Scouts

The Religion and Life Badge of the Boy Scouts of Canada was presented to Allan Johnstone and Scott McNeice at a Christmas Sunday church service at the Thornhill Presbyterian Church.

Women's Institute

The Thornhill Women's Institute held its regular meeting December 19, but it was only the date which was regular. Members attended the Royal Palace Restaurant and had a wonderful Christmas lunch. Then they adjourned to Anne Heslop's home to continue their festivities. They had a very short business meeting in order to hear a report on the annual conference at the Royal York in Toronto. This was presented by Alva Thompson.

They had an extra special Christmas tea with homemade Christmas cake and shortbread. This was all hard on people who had vowed not to put on any more weight at Christmas!

Guides

On December 15 the 3rd Thornhill Girl Guide Company, presented their annual candlelight service at Thornhill Presbyterian Church.

The setting this year was an Indian village. To sombre drum beats, the Chief led the four tribal chiefs and instructed them to assemble their tribes so they "might celebrate this great occasion with the ceremony of lights." The tribes entered, each Indian holding a candle, to a processional hymn "Each in the Realm of Glory."

Two story tellers set the scene with the story of how an angel appeared to hunters who in turn related their tale of the birth of a saviour to their chiefs. These chiefs then travelled through the winter's eve to bring their humble gifts of deer, fox and beaver pelts to the holy child.

"The birth of Jesus was the adventure of love, peace and joy." Dr. Dillwyn Evans, minister of the church, lit the central candle for Christ, Light of the World. Then four girls lit their candles for Christmas, love, peace and joy.

The Guides walked slowly down the centre aisle and joined with the congregation in singing "Joy to the World". They circled the church and met at the chancel steps where they sang "Taps."

This year's director was Judi McCutcheon. The organist was Walter Stothers. The guest soloist, who also accompanied the girls in the Huron Carol was Tim Megan.

On December 6, the 2nd and 3rd Thornhill Guide Companies joined ranks for a Christmas bazaar at Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

Every craft article was made by the girls themselves, helped by many willing mothers. In addition to the craft stalls there was a White Elephant stall, a book and toy stall, and a bake goods stall. Baked goods were supplied by the mothers, but the goodies provided for refreshments were the girls' own work.

The purpose of the bazaar was to raise enough money to upgrade their own equipment but even more important, to donate equipment to the pediatric unit of the York County Hospital.

So on December 19, a group of girls and leaders from both

companies presented a stroller, painting easel and lots of craft materials to the hospital.

BETA SIGMA PHI, ETA SIGMA, Thornhill, was given a talk by a representative from the Truck Theatre at the Colonade on Bloor Street, Toronto, recently. He talked generally about psycho-drama and was later bombarded with questions. Held at the home of Beverly Celmainis, this program was also arranged by her.

The Markham Exemplar Chapter, Zeta Gamma Phi, was entertained by Eta Sigma with games of court whist, punch and desserts at the home of Janet Aberdeen on November 12.

The appearance of Mr. Dressup at Thornlea School was a roaring success. Over 600 tickets were sold in advance as well as others at the door. The proceeds are being donated to ARC Industries and the Thornhill Community Centre. Peggy Revel and Marie Simone did a tremendous job of organizing.

A regular meeting, held November 26 at Claire Foran's, proved to be quite special, with a fashion show and make-up demonstration given by Carole Williams of Merle Norman, Hillcrest. The program was arranged by the hostess and Valerie Considine.

Eta Psi of Thornhill entertained Eta Sigma at Eleanor Taylor's home on December 3 with a Christmas Party and buffet dinner.

A special social event was a progressive dinner party on December 7. Cocktails were served at Claire Foran's. Next the Sorority went to Marlene Wentzell's. Everyone was impressed with the lovely preparations she and Joan Trotta made. There was a fabulous fondue dinner, red tablecloths, candlelight, wine and all the trimmings. Afterwards dessert and coffee were ready at Cynthia Thomas' home.

The Christmas gift exchange is always a lot of fun. After a regular meeting the members revealed themselves to their secret sisters with their Christmas gifts. This was held at the home of Joan Trotta, on December 10. Three lovely candy houses were door prizes. One was won by Valerie Considine, another by Diane Springstein.

So ended this year, and everyone is looking forward to seeing each other in 1975.

1974 public school surplus

One thing the new York County Board of Education will be starting off with next year regardless of whether its members are all new, or the same old gang, is a healthy surplus; courtesy of the present board.

Monday night, Vice-chairman Tommy Johnston of Keswick, in a report from the committee of the whole, told the meeting the board would be carrying a surplus

of \$848,834 into the budget for 1975 "to reduce the mill rates".

Mr. Johnston didn't elaborate on the matter, but the fact the number of days in the fall term this year was less than the 40 percent budgeted for salaries, because of the teacher strike, and also because of the sale of the Milani site to the Separate School Board, the board could have wound up ahead.



Alice Perkins, 86, holds her great-grandson David Hemstad, five months. Both attended a four generation family Christmas in Victoria Square.

Four generations celebrate Christmas in Victoria Square

Family Christmases are traditional with the Perkins family. But for more than 10 years the family, now in four generations and concentrated around the Richmond Hill - Thornhill - Victoria Square area, has been too large to assemble in a private home.

They have solved the problem by renting the Victoria Square Community Hall each year for the occasion and they all chip in with the food and the trimmings for a gala celebration.

This year Mr. and Mrs. Jim Barker of Victoria Square were in charge of coordinating the festivities, including a daytime and an evening meal with some 40 family members and a few close friends attending. Among the guests were Rev. and Mrs. Martin Jenkinson, formerly of Victoria Square.

The oldest member of the family at the celebration was Mrs. Alice Perkins, 86, while the youngest was her great-grandson David Hemstad, five months.

David is the son of Lois and Harold Hemstad of Thornhill and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Perkins of Richmond Hill.

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VAUGHAN HYDRO NOTICE OF CHANGE OF RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 1975

As the result of continuing increases in the cost of materials, services, and labour, the Hydro-Electric Commission of the Township of Vaughan has applied for approval of Ontario Hydro for an increase in retail rates. The new rates will be about 7% higher than those now in force, and will be applied on bills rendered on or after March 1, 1975. A typical residential bill on old rates, and on new rates is shown, for a normal two-month period, where average energy used is 1800 KWH.

Old Rates	New Rates
100 KWH at 5.00¢ 5.00	at 5.00¢ 5.00
400 KWH at 3.10¢ 12.40	at 3.25¢ 13.00
1000 KWH at 1.12 11.20	at 1.25¢ 12.50
300 KWH at 1.32 3.96	at 1.45¢ 4.35
TOTAL \$32.56	\$34.85

Increase \$2.29 for two months (7%)

S. R. Greenwood
Manager

J. C. Gilbert
Chairman

The Hydro-Electric Commission of the Township of Vaughan Electrical Power Rates effective for bills rendered on and after March 1, 1975

RATE SCHEDULE (All rates are net. Gross rates are 5% higher).

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

First 50 KWH per month	per KWH	5.00 cents
Next 200 KWH per month	per KWH	3.25 cents
Balance of consumption	per KWH	1.45 cents

PREFERRED RATE

A special block of 500 KWH per month is available to customers with an approved metered electric water heater	1.25 cents
Minimum monthly bill	\$3.50
Flat Rate Water Heaters	Schedule No. 66

GENERAL SERVICE

Up to 500 KW

Demand		
First 50 KW per month	per KW	\$0.00
Balance	per KW	\$2.70
Energy		
First 50 KWH per month	per KWH	5.00 cents
Next 200 KWH per month	per KWH	3.25 cents
Next 9750 KWH per month	per KWH	2.10 cents
Balance of consumption	per KWH	0.80 cents

Over 500 KW

Demand		
All KW per month	per KW	\$3.35
Energy		
All energy	per KWH	0.65 cents
Minimum Bills		
Under 50 KW	per month	\$3.50
Over 50 KW per KW of previous maximum		25 cents

TRANSFORMATION DISCOUNTS

Customers purchasing power at 8.3/13.8 KV or at 27.6/44 KV will be allowed a transformation discount of 15 cents per KW, and 25 cents per KW respectively, based on current metered demand.

STREET LIGHTING per KW/Annum \$64.40

SENTINEL LIGHTING per KW/Annum \$70.84