

Busy youngsters perform at Summerfest



Make believe monsters

No, they aren't your typical group of cute kids, but then they aren't supposed to be. They're monsters, and they're taking part in a skit called Monster Mash at last week's Summerfest in Oak Ridges, the official closing of Richmond Hill parks and recreation department's

summer playground program at local schools. This particular group, shown with leader Sue Beaudoin (left), includes Roselawn students Billy Keats, Larry Curry and Raj Bhat.

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Crafts on display

And that one's mine, young Karen Smith tells father Bruce as parents take a tour of arts and crafts displays at last week's Summerfest sponsored by Richmond Hill parks and recreation department at Bond Lake arena. There were several hundred young people taking part in the summer recreation program at schools throughout the town.



Well-made ornaments

Endless variety of homemade crafts can be fashioned from all kinds of simple materials. Here, Susan Dodds, a student in Richmond Hill's summer playground program, shows her mother one of the decorative ornaments she made.



Young candlemaker

About 1,000 parents from all over Richmond Hill turned out last week to enjoy Summerfest, the program which brought an end to the summer recreation projects held for local students. Apart from several skits and musical performances, the young people displayed some of the art work and crafts they had worked on, such as the candles of Dennis Spraggett (above.)

300 students join in the fun

By Millie Stewart

OAK RIDGES — For the past six weeks, 11 schools in Richmond Hill have been holding summer playground programs for the youngsters. They are run by the town parks and recreation department and are led by students who have been trained as leaders. The culmination of all this work is an event called Summerfest, held at Bond Lake Arena in Oak Ridges last week. The audience was welcomed to Summerfest by Lynton Friedberg, superintendent of recreation, and

Mayor David Schiller. Schiller said he was impressed with this kind of program, and that he was pleased to see the large number of people who came to see the youngsters perform. And perform they did. The audience was treated to several songs, with about 300 young people joining in. Skits were performed by 10 different groups, and the young peoples' crafts work was on display. Every year at Summerfest, a trophy for baseball is present; this year, the winners were the summer playground groups from McConaghy Public School.

Photos by Glen Doyle

Here's some advice on irises, apricots

By Marion Bluegrass

Dear Marion: My irises gave very little bloom this spring, and now they look like they're dying. Will they recover by next year or should I do something for them?

Mr. C.W., King City
No and yes. No, they probably won't recover by next year and yes, you'd better do something about the problem.

Your irises are probably suffering from an infestation of iris borer. Check the leaves for the slimy trail left by this pest.

Dig them up and look at the roots where the tell-tale evidence will indicate whether the borer has been munching away on those juicy rhizomes.

Discard the ones that are heavily infested or badly damaged. Dust them with insecticide and replant, after cutting the tops back to about eight inches.

Check carefully this time next year, to make sure no eggs were left to hatch and start the whole cycle over again.

Make sure you have good drainage for your irises. This prevents root rot.

Dear Marion: My three-year-old apricot tree has never blossomed. Is it ever going to have blossoms? It's otherwise quite vigorous and healthy looking.

Mr. A. J., Thornhill
There are three things you can try, but wait until early next spring to do them.

Prune the tree back fairly severely, taking off almost a third of each branch.

Give it a good early feeding of a low-nitrogen fertilizer. This will stimulate the tree to produce flower instead of leaf.

You can also try cutting back its

region gardener

roots. To do this, draw a circle around the tree slightly smaller in diameter than its unpruned branches. Plunge a spade into the ground all the way around the circle.

This stimulates the tree to produce flower instead of putting its energy into a heavy root system.

Dear Marion: My garden seems to be thriving but my house plants that did well all year aren't. Some are getting brown leaves and dying off. What can I do for them? I've increased the amount of plant food during summer, and wondered if this was the reason.

Mrs. S.T., Richmond Hill
Probably the plant food isn't the villain at all. House plants do need more nutrients during the summer months, less during the dormant winter season.

Check the location of your plants. If they've done well all winter in a southern exposure it could be they're just getting too much sunlight now.

In spite of the fact we've had a very cloudy summer, it only takes a few days of sitting behind a pane of glass with the hot sun streaming in to burn delicate leaves and dehydrate the plant completely.

Try moving them to a less exposed spot. Even a sunless northern window may be the answer for some house plants, as long as they're getting plenty of indirect light.

Remove the dead leaves and ease off on the plant food for a while till the plants have had time to recover and get used to the new location.

Culture shock inevitable, says missionary to Peru

By Denise Romberg

STOUFFVILLE — If you ask anyone in Peru for directions, you're more than likely to get an answer, Betty Sproxtion says. The problem is that more often than not, they will give you an answer before they will admit to not knowing.

It's a small part of getting used to Peruvian culture, which considers an "don't know" response an insult, explained Miss Sproxtion, 34, who is now home on furlough from her teaching post at the Bible Institute in Huanco, Peru.

Huanco, approximately 350 miles northeast of Lima, the Peruvian capital, is perched in the mountains 6,000 feet above sea level. It's the kind of place that has the population of a city, but the atmosphere of a town, Miss Sproxtion says.

Miss Sproxtion attended the Canadian Bible College in Regina and holds a nursing degree from the Nightingale School of Nursing in Toronto. Upon graduation from the Bible college, she says, she was at first interested in taking a teaching post in India, but none was open to her.

When the position in Huanco became available she left her Stouffville home to spend a year in Costa Rica, hoping that living there would make the adjustment to the Spanish culture of Peru a little easier.

"It was an opportunity to learn the language and acclimatize," she said.



Betty Sproxtion
... visiting in Stouffville

By the time she took up her post in Huanco, the following year, "I think I was psychologically prepared to adjust, although there are many areas of the culture to which I have not yet made the adjustment, and probably never will."

Her recent trip home marks the end of her second mission in Peru. Altogether she has worked there eighty years.

The Bible Institute in Huanco is associated with the Christian Missionary Alliance Church which has set up missions in 40 countries throughout the world.

The Huanco school enrolls 45 Peruvian students in a four-year program designed to train them as religious leaders in their own communities.

Miss Sproxtion spends the school year, which runs from November to April, teaching music, Greek and religious education and she has taken on various projects during the summer months.

These included travelling to jungle communities to teach natives or working at nursery schools in different communities throughout the country.

She plans to return to Huanco either in April or July of next year and in future to return home more frequently, perhaps annually for three or four months rather than a year's furlough at the end of four years work.

That'll mean more travel in addition to the travel requirements of her work, and oddly enough, as Miss Sproxtion admits, "I don't even like to travel."