



Thomas Baker is helping children in a grade six class at Whitchurch-Highlands compose their own music. The students learn where and how music originates, how it is constructed, and why notation is necessary.

all through their own experiments in composition. Thomas Baker, a composer living in Zephyr, has led similar projects at various other schools.

Annegret Lamure

Students become composers

By Annegret Lamure
STOUFFVILLE — At Whitchurch-Highlands School, children are learning about music in a whole new way.

"My aim is to teach them music from the inside out," explained Thomas Baker, who is leading the program. "Instead of learning about music from the outside, by studying songs and notes, and then somewhere around university age asking themselves, 'what is music? and where does it come from?' the kids start right out by discovering what music is all about."

Mr. Baker, a composer living in Zephyr, is sponsored by the Ontario Arts Council under the Creative Arts in the

School program, and is teaching children in various grades how to compose and perform their own music.

"It's a multi-textured kind of thing," said the bearded Baker.

He said that another advantage of his approach is that the kids will be able to be part of a much more complex piece of music than by more orthodox methods, since formal skills, such as reading difficult music notations, are not required.

The musician starts the children off by having them make a sound catalogue. His students list all the qualities a sound can have such as loud, soft, agitated, calm

etc. and then make noises illustrating these qualities.

The next step is picking a concept or theme around which to build their composition.

One recent group chose "water." They started out writing down associate words such as condensation, ice, flowing, waves, spray, and then finding sounds to express those ideas.

"It's sort of like sound painting," said Mr. Baker. "Then the question is, 'how can we put all this together?'"

Judging by the enthusiastic groups, this doesn't present too many problems.

It is not unusual for a class to conceive, write down, compose, rehearse, and then perform their work, all in one afternoon.

"It's so easy once you've chosen a theme, to find synonyms," said Baker, expressingly waving his arms. "For instance, for a block of ice you make a big thick ice chord then cut off and hold it to indicate a cold flat surface."

To teach children about music notation, Mr. Baker has various groups compose and rehearse a short piece and then make notations on graph paper to illustrate how it

is to be performed. It is up to the children to figure out the various ways in which this may be done, and each group comes up with a different approach. To test the efficiency and clarity of the notations, the groups tape record their pieces individually and then pass their notations to a different group, who attempt to recreate the music from the instructions.

Surprisingly enough, roughly half the children were successful in recreating the original in this way, without benefit of staff, treble clef or notes of any kind.

The most faithfully reproduced piece had been rather ingeniously set down, not only by thick and thin, high and low lines on the graph, but by employing different colours for the various parts as well.

This exercise, as well as being greatly enjoyed by the children, teaches them what music notation is all about, and Mr. Baker hopes "will enable them to view the conventional system of notation in a whole new light."

Although Mr. Baker also coaches several small combos in the school, he feels children should learn to employ

vocal music. "The voice is an always-accessible instrument," he explained.

Mr. Baker has an extensive background in choral music. He has sung with the Festival Singers, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, and the Vancouver Chamber Choir. "I did so much choral music, I started to write my own," said the composer.

Mr. Baker has held

workshops at Jesse Ketchum, Eastdale Collegiate, and Rodin Elementary School before coming to Whitchurch-Highlands, and hopes to eventually set up a whole music program based on his techniques.

He used to go to city schools but one day asked himself, "why not here?" "The rural schools really tend to lose out on this sort of thing," said Mr. Baker.

Residents are to interview local candidates on T.V.

Panels of local residents will be interviewing candidates in the Whitchurch-Stouffville municipal campaign Dec. 1 on Cable 10 TV.

The "hotseat" program will be aired beginning 7 p.m.

The panels will be made up of guests invited into the studio by individual candidates.

Public and separate boards of education candidates will be grilled Friday night, while candidates from Markham will be on the air Monday.

Handcrafts sold at Main St. store

STOUFFVILLE — The Gingerbread House

on Main St. is aptly named. While it has nothing to do with the luscious confections on display in the windows of the Stouffville Bakery, it projects the same sort of cozy atmosphere.

A committee was first formed to study redistribution in 1974 following Markham's first request for increased representation.

However, that group met only twice. Along with considering representation based on population, the committee will also study a ward system eliminating strictly municipal representation.

great assortment of hand-made items.

The most unusual items in the shop are delicate replicas of antique china dolls; Mrs. Campbell's pride and joy is a collection of old-fashioned lids. She has hit on the idea of using them as the basis of dried flower arrangements and mounting the result on old barnboards.

"It just came to me one day," said Mrs. Campbell, surveying the charming results.

As well as doing her own lids, she also does custom decorating for people who bring in their own.



Students at Whitchurch-Highlands are very interested and involved in the music program led by Thomas Baker in co-operation with the music teachers. Students learn to play together without having to know how to read music. Blair Key, a member of the school combo, is learning to play the guitar by simple chord changes.

O.P. called 'too long'

STOUFFVILLE — The Whitchurch-Stouffville Interim Official Plan is too long, according to Richard Preston, a member of the York Region Land Division Committee and the town's Committee of Adjustment.

In a written submission to planning board last week, Mr. Preston

states that "a more concise document" would be much easier to relate to.

He says that from "a cursory examination" of the interim plan, "there could be difficulties in interpretation, as there appear to be many ambiguous statements."

Mr. Preston included three pages of comments

and questions on specific parts of the plan.

Planning board indicated they would take his comments into account in upcoming meetings of planning committee.

Crash kills woman

MARKHAM — An 18-year-old woman died early Tuesday morning as a result of head injuries sustained in a two-car collision at the 7th concession and 18th Avenue.

At 8:20 Monday evening a car driven by Wynne Thompson, 17, of lot 30, concession 7, was in collision with a car driven by Thomas West, 16.

Brenda McLeod, 18, of Perth sustained head

injuries which proved fatal.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. West received cuts and bruises and Stanley West, a passenger, suffered a fractured shoulder.

According to York Regional Police, Mr. West, who was northbound at the time, was in the process of making a left-hand turn when the collision occurred. Mr. Thompson was reportedly northbound.

Organization plans

Low-income housing

STOUFFVILLE — Nearly every land owner who appears before planning board does so with the object of improving his financial position.

Last week was the exception, when Brother Daniel Ratcliffe of the Christian Brothers Provincialate presented a proposal for 442 acres located on the north-western corner of Whitchurch-Stouffville, south of Davis Drive and east of proposed Highway 404.

The society proposes to retain ownership of the land and to rent out use of the land for homes at a low fee.

Mr. Ratcliffe told the board that the plan would be to allow a developer to tender to build homes, which could then be sold without the cost of the land added in.

"Our idea is to provide homes for people in the lower income bracket," said Mr. Ratcliffe.

Planning board chairman Eldred King pointed out that the interim official plan at present contains no category that could accommodate that type of development. He said the

board would have to decide if they wished to add a new designation.

The proposal is complicated by the fact it is located on good agricultural land.

Mr. Ratcliffe said they have received offers to sell the land for over \$1,000,000, but "we aren't anxious to make money. We have people in our organization who work in the Third World, and we would like to contribute something to our fellow Canadians."

The proposed rentals income to the society, he said, would be about \$250 per acre, or \$100,000 a year.

Mr. King said that because no services are available, the development would need to go forward with septic facilities and could not be as densely populated as the proposed four and one-half lots per acre.

Mr. Ratcliffe said that the development would need to have schools, churches and shopping areas as well as residences. The rent of the commercial areas would be higher than that of residences, he said.

So that the plan could not be exploited, a home

No subcommittee decision

NEWMARKET — It will be up to the new York Regional Council in 1977 to consider an adjustment of regional representation, the administrative committee decided last week.

In response to complaints from the town of Markham, regional council ordered a subcommittee reactivated to report with recommendations to that committee in November for consideration by council next month.

However, by the November meeting, the subcommittee had still not met, the committee was told.

It called for the formation of a new subcommittee in January to take on the study, and regional council is expected to confirm that decision tomorrow.

Darcy McKeough, Minister of Treasury, Economics and International Affairs, backed Markham's request for an adjustment

of council representation and called for council to base its membership on population.

However, the northern municipalities within the region are concerned that a representation based strictly on population would leave the region controlled by the more densely populated south.

The 16-member council is now evenly divided between the north and south, and with Chairman Garfield Wright from East Gwillimbury Township, the north has a slight edge.

Clippers win at home

By Pete Sanderson

STOUFFVILLE — The Stouffville arena has been a friendly place for the Ken May Clippers so far this season, and last Saturday was no exception — the Real Estate squad rolled over Frankford Saturday night, 7-4.

Kevin Barrick paced the Clippers with three goals, increasing his seasonal output to thirteen. Bill Meakes, Damon Bennett, Doug Taylor, and Chris Clarridge scored the other Clipper

goals while Frankford's Marksmen included Lawrence McComb, Paul Bedard, Phil Gravelle, and Tim Neron.

McComb opened the scoring for Frankford and the 1-0 lead stood up until the eighteen minute mark of the first period when Ted Assinck set Bill Meakes up for the equalizer.

In the second period, Frankford again struck first as Paul Bedard beat Clipper Rick Marshman. Marshman played a solid

game, stopping 46 of the 50 shots he faced. With Frankford's Rick McIntosh off for roughing, Damon Bennett pulled the Clippers even with his power-play blast. A minute later, Doug Taylor shot the Clippers ahead on passes from Perry Brown and Scott Connor.

Later in the period, Phil Gravelle tied the score and the Frankford club seemed destined for more, but the third period belonged to the May

Squad, chiefly through the outstanding play of Kevin Barrick. Barrick shot the starch out of the Frankford sails as he scored from Meakes and Assinck after just 44 seconds of play. A minute later, Assinck combined with Geoff Roy to set Barrick up once again, and the fine centerman made no mistake.

Frankford's Tom Neron scored a short-handed goal with teammate Jamie Odgen off for high-sticking, but it was Barrick who put the Clippers up by two one minute later from Assinck and Bennett. Chris Clarridge rounded out the scoring as he converted Damon Bennett's pass for a power play goal with one second remaining in the game.

The Barrick-Assinck-Meakes combination picked up where their Taylor-Brown-Connor counterparts left off last week. Assinck set up all four of his linemate's goals and the Clipper captain now has a league-leading 14 assists.

The May squad may have lost the services of speedy winger Perry Brown, as he picked up a match misconduct penalty in the second period. A match-misconduct carries an automatic suspension with it, and with four games upcoming (two already played) the Clippers could be hurt by Brown's loss.

The May club hosts Lindsay this Saturday night at 8 p.m., and travels to Port Perry Sunday night.



Many unique items are on display at the Gingerbread House, a new establishment on Main St. Joyce Campbell, who operated a similar enterprise in Apsley before settling in

Stouffville, produces charming flower arrangements and utilizes antique salt cellars and old-fashioned soup tureen lids as the basis for her work.



The grade two class at Dickson Hill recently put on a smash hit called C.O.P. during an assembly program. The letters stand for Consider Other People. The little fellow in

the hat had the best part. He got to blow a whistle at intervals to wake up the audience, and underscore the various points made.



The labels seemed pretty inaccurate at the recent Cedars of Musseimans Annual Bazaar, but Terry Mackintosh doesn't seem

particularly worried about being mistaken for a rubber stamp. She is far more interested in rummaging around in a box of toys. — Annegret Lamure