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Wednesday, April 27, 1983

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Approval looms close Skiing resort

UXBRIDGE — Only a guarantee of snow was missing, last week, as township planning board gave all but complete approval to a plan for a new ski resort at Chalk Lake, just north of the present Dagmar ski area.

"We're basically bringing skiing back to where it all began," said Peter Harris, a partner with Evan Williamson in the proposed project.

Harris said the latter would be known as "Pugh's Hill Resort," in honor of its first owners, Athalia Pugh and her two children, Forrest and Myrtle, and would be built at the site of what is believed to have been the first ski tow in Ontario. He said the original resort area was leased by the Toronto Ski Club from 1938 to 1948.

The club then moved to

new grounds, at what is now Skyloft.

Now, once again, there was a demand for good skiing close to Toronto, Harris said. Despite a drop in natural snowfall, their own \$17,000 snow-making machine, made steady snow a reality, he said.

As for noise, "the machine is so quiet you can carry on a conversation with it."

He said, too, that the hill there — 275 feet — was one of the highest around.

The two applicants were backed in their presentation by six residents of the area, who attended to show they were in favor.

When asked by Councillor Don Jackson, whether the resort would operate in some capacity in the summer, Harris said there was

"no proposed summer activity, as yet."

Said planner, Alex Grant: "Would you be prepared to go with just skiing ... not some other activity ... unless you applied again?"

Harris said they would.

He said the ski lodge would be a replica of a railway station of the period, with dining cars out in front.

Grant said he thought the application conformed to the town's official plan.

Said board chairman, Sandy Ewen: "It's not often we have someone come along and want to invest several million dollars."

A motion to draft a by-law permitting the resort, and to set up a meeting with township planner Grant, and Durham Regional planner, Dr. M. Michael, was carried.



It's a 'Dickens' of a role

Ten-year-old Jennifer Greer, a Grade 5 student at Claremont Public School, has the lead role in the musical "Oliver" that goes on stage Wednesday (to-day) at 1 p.m. and Thursday (to-morrow) at 7 p.m. Jennifer lives at R.R. 1, Locust Hill.

—Jim Thomas

Claremont production soars Musical a big hit

CLAREMONT — While rumor has it that it's a man's world, at Claremont Public School for a couple of days this week — April 27 and 28 — the ladies have it; and, in abundance.

That's one of the reasons why director Mary Hearn's production of "Oliver," the

famed Dickens' tale about orphan boys in 19th century England, and the unscrupulous people who governed their lives, sails along in this musical version, as if it had been all plotted out at the school, itself.

In a way it has. Director Hearn, who is also principal of Claremont, revised the script, so that some of the violence was omitted, and the cast — almost 100 per cent girls — carried it along from there to the kind of happy conclusion that even the notorious Fagin (Courtney Graham) would have been happy with. It is a show well worth seeing. Colorful and lightly eloquent, it gives a quick and vivid picture of a time when such acts of effrontery, as that of Oliver's (Jennifer Greer) in asking for a second helping of gruel at an orphanage, could be construed as a form of treason by those in charge, and all but capital punishment meted out.

The cast, too, shows a discipline far beyond its youthful years, with only the occasional memory lapse, as the enormity of the moment suddenly hits home.

Jennifer Greer is a wonderful Oliver. Although her singing voice is small, she has a fine stage presence, and it's hard to imagine anyone else in the role, so well does she react to the up-and-down world around her.

Equally at home, are Miss Graham, and Kevin Myers (Artful Dodger) who have a great time with both their roles and their songs. They know who they are, and they have no hesitation in letting the rest of us in on the secret.

Myers gives an especially bouncy rendition of "Consider Yourself At Home."

Tim Evans, in his brief appearance as Bill Sykes, sings pleasingly and with authority; there's a fine baritone there in the making. Sherry Carruthers is a menacing Mr. Bumble, and Chris Peddie, as the pub

girl, Nancy, has her moments. Karen Falkenberg, as the wealthy Mr. Brownlow, proves an easy touch for Fagin's ragged bunch of pickpockets.

Backing them up throughout, are the orphan boys, street boys and choir members, whose opening entrance from the side of the stage in their rag-tag garments, gets the whole thing off to a quick and colorful start; their subsequent choral offerings are full voiced and clear, providing the perfect complement to the players, and happy listening to the audience.

They, and choir leader, Carole Redshaw, are to be commended.

Equal laurels should go to director Hearn for her tight, yet relaxed and highly professional direction; to choreographers, Andrea Graham and Sue Solomon — they even got the boys in it to

Lead role thrills student

CLAREMONT — Winning the lead role in the musical "Oliver" is a dream come true for ten-year-old Jennifer Greer, a Grade 5 student at Claremont Public School.

"I had to audition against two boys," Jennifer said in a pre-performance interview; "I thought for sure the principal would pick one of them."

However, she was the choice, a selection that left her speechless with surprise. But not for long. She handles the part like a veteran.

"It's what I really wanted," she said.

The play goes on stage, Wednesday, (today) at 1 p.m., and Thursday (to-morrow) at seven.

Jennifer admits she's looking forward to the event. Her mother and dad, Mr. and Mrs. Max Greer of Green River; her six-year-old brother Jeff and her grandparents will all be seated in the audience.

Is this the highlight of your school year? Jennifer was asked.

One of them, she replied. Just as exciting, she admitted, was having her Fire Prevention Poster selected best in all Ontario. This accomplishment has earned her \$125, a somewhat higher honorarium than she'll receive in her Oliver role. However, there are some things money can't buy — like appreciation of a part played to perfection.

Hit out at rapists

GOODWOOD — Rape is not a crime of sex, but a crime of violence, the rapist seeking as his victim, the woman with "fear in her eyes," according to the mother-and-daughter founders of Scugog Crisis Centre. The two, Mrs. Jennette Ross and her daughter, Tamara Ross-Petrie, discussed "The Rape Crisis" before a small gathering at the Lions Club-sponsored meeting at Goodwood Community Centre, Monday night.

Mrs. Ross said the rapist was someone who hated women and couldn't handle them.

"He looks for a woman who looks like a victim," she said.

She suggested women "walk in an aggressive manner." If they felt they were being followed, to look around at their follower, and then cross the street. If he continued to follow, to head for the nearest house, breaking the window, if necessary, to get help.

The cruelty of rape can leave its victim in such a shattered state that, for months afterwards even such basic things as choosing what dress to wear, can create a turmoil, she said.

She said the Centre — formerly the Rape Crisis Centre — was founded to help victims deal with everything from making decisions, to listening to them as they relive their ordeal; to seeking reforms in law to aid them.

Although the speakers said that the term, rape,"

had now been dropped in favor of sexual assault and aggravated assault, they used the term throughout the evening.

Mrs. Ross said she did not think it had been a good idea to change the wording.

However, with the changeover, the Centre now dealt with other matters, too, such as battered wives, abused teens and violent crimes against both men and women.

Citing a bizarre list of facts, she said there was a rape every 29 minutes in Canada; the youngest reported being six months old; the oldest, 97.

The Centre received 77 crisis calls in the past three months, covering rape, incest, child molesting, battered wives, abused teens and suicide.

The speakers defended the woman who implies interest in sexual intercourse and then later changes her mind.

"A woman has every right to say no, right up to the act of penetration. If a man continues, it's rape." Society was "trying to make women responsible for men's urges."

Mrs. Ross said that all men considered the victim

as "something filthy," afterwards. Asked to explain, she replied: "It just is, that's all."

Both of the speakers said they were completely without sympathy for the rapist. "They should all get life with a whip," said Mrs. Ross. She said she would like to see them put in prison with the rest of the inmates again, "where they had the guts to do to them what we should have been doing."

Her daughter said that rapists should be castrated.

"I don't hate men," she added; "I'm married with two children."

Said Mrs. Ross: "A lot of us are feminists ... It's not a criteria (sic) to join ... I don't hate men. I like them very much. I have a supportive husband."

She said the Centre's office was donated by Scugog Council; operated by volunteers and financed by donations.

Right now, however, it was undergoing a crisis of its own: a financial one. It had just enough money until the end of the week, Mrs. Ross said. "After that, I don't know what we're going to do."

The number of Centre is 579-8806.

Clear up odours

CLAREMONT — They're cleaning up the village of Claremont.

They, in this case, are not the police, or a band of reformers, but are members of Durham Region's works department.

It seems there's been something in the air the past few months, and it hasn't been spring. It's been an odor, which the Regional department has traced to the storm sewers.

As a result, they've been flushed out, and it's hoped the smell, identified as ferrous sulphide from the sewer pipes, has made its last appearance.

Complaints of another so-called odor at Greenwood Mushroom Farm, brought about a different exchange.

Pickering Town Council ruled against complaints from two residents of the area, Thomas Newman and Bruno Harilaid, both of Paddock Rd., who spoke against expanding the farm, because they said they could "already smell strong odors."

However, council approved the application to expand, and the matter will now go before the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.



A position of responsibility

Three times a day, five days a week, Bill Hammond handles the crossing guard duties at the intersection of Brock Road and the 9th Concession in Claremont. While the weather's not always favorable, Bill enjoys the job and its responsibilities. So far, he has an accident-free record, one he hopes to maintain.

—Jim Thomas

Music skills

UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge Secondary School will hold its annual concert, entitled "An Evening of Music", April 28 and 29.

The event, sponsored by the Concert Band, will involve 600 students from the three local schools.

Selections will be performed by choirs from Uxbridge Public School, Kindergarten to Grade 6; a choir and instrumental band from Joseph Gould Senior

Public School, Grades 7 and 8, and the Uxbridge Secondary School Concert Band.

Mr. Sulev, the instrumental teacher at U.H.S., said the program is set up so parents can see "the progression" of the students from kindergarten through to the senior grades.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m., with tickets selling for \$2.00. Pre-school children are admitted free.

Budget beckons

UXBRIDGE — It will be another month before Uxbridge Township releases its budget for 1983, according to Mayor Bill Ballinger.

He said that council was still awaiting the school board leave, which represents 52 per cent of the en-

tire budget.

He said, also that the five per cent wage restraint would be "the toughest part to hold."

The mayor didn't offer any probable estimate as to what this year's over-all expenditures would be.