

# Magnificent monsters

**BY JIM IRVING**  
**BALLANTRAE** — It's a rough world when you can't fulfill the role you were meant for in life; in fact, the problem can be monstrous.

That was especially so in every way last week at Ballantrae Public School, where a monstrous cast of students from grade 4 to grade 8, told the story of such old favorites from the world of misfits, as Count Dracula, Frankenstein's Monster, and others, whose very serious problem was that they couldn't frighten anyone, anymore.

That's like Wayne Gretzky not being able to score goals, or the Midas men not being able to repair car mufflers. What do you do in a situation like that?

Well, if you're members of the cast of "Monster Madness," the Ballantrae musical production, you tell your story in a most delightful, humorous and entertaining manner; and, as things turned out, you even get a happy ending from it all.

Not that it wasn't a happy occasion for the audience throughout, but those well-dressed monsters did face extinction. Even Igor the ugly ogre, so ably played by Jordy Davidson, with his wild romp through the spectators to try to drum up a little terror, found that the old magic was gone.

Still, hope springs eternal in the human breast; so to speak, and before the evening was over, this group of unhappy harpies and horrors had recaptured their self-disrespect and could once more look forward to having those outside their realm cross to

the other side of the forest when they saw them coming.

Janet Prince is, a vivacious Happy Medium, whose crystal ball has been on the blink since daylight saving time, and also displays a fine singing voice.

Kelly Ericson as Vampira — "I want to be alone" — is the perfect ghoul for the part, while Tracy Blackwell — "It's a grave situation" — gives a most unmovable performance as the tombstone.

Michael Pongracz, is excellent as the disillusioned Dr. Frankenstein; Clint Skidmore — "I like it, I like it" — is a most cape-able Count Dracula.

Danny Martin, Dr. Frankenstein's unwilling monster — "High, gang" — is another heady presence, impressive to everyone but his creator.

Nathan Monk is a woolly and willing Wolfman.

The remainder of the cast is equally adept in its depiction of witches, skeletons and suitably awed boys and girls.

Full marks, too, to the big choir that backed them all. Both in their pre-show presentation and accompaniment, they performed musically and well. Just the kind of monsters you'd be happy to run into, anytime.

Directors, Mrs. Georgia Berry and Mrs. Donna Friedbacher, and choral directors, Miss J. Wideman, Mme E. Cameron and Brian Cockburn, and everyone else associated with the show — the makeup and costumes would turn other monsters green in the spleen with envy — can all take a monstrous bow.



A musical range of 63 years

When the Whitchurch-Stouffville Band presents its spring concert, Thursday night, the range in ages will be as great as the range in notes. An example is Mandy Duval of Uxbridge and George Pegg of Stouffville. Mandy is seventeen; Mr Pegg is

eighty. She plays the clarinet and he plays the tuba. Together, they harmonize just fine. The concert is scheduled for 8 p.m., in the gymnasium at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School.

# 'Hearty' board

**STOUFFVILLE** — Despite the protests of one member that, while his heart said "yes", the rules said "no", Town Planning Board agreed to go with its heart. Or, at least, the over-all mood of the by-law involved.

As a result, an application from Bern Preston of R.R. 4, Stouffville, for a second residence on his 25-acre parcel of land, Lot 11, Concession 5, for his son, received tentative approval.

In presenting the request, solicitor Donald C. Hindson of Markham, said he had originally informed his client that he would be unable to help him, as the by-law called for only one house per lot.

His client persisted, however, and "gradually impressed upon me that there must be something this municipality could do."

With this in mind, Hindson suggested spot rezoning, with a site plan agreement, and without severances.

"Would the operation support two families?" asked Councillor Fran Sainsbury.

Hindson said it wouldn't; "it would just keep them (the present residents) active and support their pensions." Their son, who works elsewhere, would assist them.

"Does the zoning by-law not permit this?" asked Mayor Eldred King.

"If there's anything I've missed, I'm only too happy to be educated," Hindson replied.

Mayor King said the municipality would be "in a better position to support this if it dealt with it through a zoning amendment." A second dwelling could be allowed for "a retiring farmer."

Said Councillor Tom Wood: "We're on the horns of a dilemma. The heart says yes, but the rules say no. We're constantly faced with this."

"I feel we could support it, as he's not asking for a severance," said Councillor Sainsbury. "The house is that far back that it wouldn't disturb the neighbors."

Hindson said that his "mission is to work out a method whereby we can do this by site plan agreement and a zoning by-law amendment."

# Shade - no problem

**BY MARK CULLEN**  
**Weall and Cullen Nurseries**  
 If your property is partially or even mostly shaded, make no mistake—you can still add a great deal of color to your landscape. In fact, shade gardening is easy, if you choose your plants carefully. Many gardening articles and books have been dedicated lovingly to the creation of shade gardens. The trick is to think positively of shade as an asset rather than a liability. Instead of worrying about what you can't grow without sun, think of what you can grow because you DO have shade!

shade are Astilbes and Columbines, exotic Daylilies, Virginia Bluebells and Bergamot.

And as for annual flowers, just think of those that thrive in the shade! Begonias, impatiens and Crystal Palace Lobelia are all wonderful for massing in the shade. Annuals for hanging baskets are no problem either. In fact, once you've seen a summer basket full of Blue Cascade Lobelia, Fuschia or Browallia...you'll want to create a shady place if you don't have one already.

Though I've never tried it myself, there are those who maintain that Ivy Geraniums made wonderful ground covers in partially shaded, cooler areas. Or, try Dwarf Summer Carpet, new for 1983. Areas of semi-shade with some morning sun are terrific spots for Coleus, Dianthus, silvery Dusty Miller, sweet scented nicotian and ageratum.

Take a trip to your favourite garden centre today, the selection of fresh bedding plants suitable for sun or shade, is tops right now. Just about any plant suitable for shade gardening can be found in the month of May.

So, instead of bemoaning the shade in your yard, put it to good use and experiment a little. You'll soon find out why shade can be a hobby gardeners delight.

# Depot going strong

**STOUFFVILLE** — Any rumors that the Stouffville Recycling Depot is almost in the recycling stage itself, are "absolutely preposterous; it's going very well," said Donna Brown, new chairman of the board.

Mrs. Brown was commenting on a newspaper report several weeks ago, which stated the depot might have trouble continuing its operations if it was unable to find a new president.

However, Mrs. Brown has since accepted this responsibility and, if anything, would like to let more and more people know the Depot is very much "alive" and waiting to receive discarded newspapers, corrugated cardboard, metal and glass.

"We want to encourage business and the people to recycle," she said. Operating hours are from 10 to noon, Thursdays and Saturdays.

"We can always use more volunteers, too," said Mrs. Brown. The volunteers put in two hours a month, and anyone interested can become one by calling co-ordinator Joan Stanford at 640-5719.

Despite taking in high tonnage — cardboard, 39.4; newsprint, 108; metal, 62.11; and glass, 24.9 — during the past year, for a gross of \$4,431.97, Mrs. Brown said the bureau suffered a net loss of \$165.85, after shipping and other expenses.

The Recycling Depot sponsors a minor league softball team and assists the Glenbrook Day Camp.

Other members named to the executive include: Secretary, Chuck Taylor; recording secretary, Mary Burns; treasurer, Evelyn Rae; volunteer co-ordinator, Joan Stanford; depot co-ordinator, Elizabeth Roberts; members at large, Robert Henderson and Ian Hilton.

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