

Remodeled home on tour



The Le Grice home on Warden Ave is one of six on the Tour of Homes planned for Thursday, Sept. 19. Proceeds from the event, sponsored by the Women's Committee of Markham, will go to the Markham Stouffville Hospital Fund. — Sjoerd Witteveen

The Markham home of Madge and Peter Le Grice is one of six elegant houses on the tour of homes sponsored by the Women's Committee of Markham. The tour is slated for 1-5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19.

The property, located on Warden Ave north of 16th Ave, includes an acre of tall trees with a unique entrance over the river through a newly added covered bridge.

This Pan Abode Bungalow reflects the warmth and hospitality with which one is received by its owners Madge and Peter Le Grice and son Michael.

The Le Grice's bought the home in 1973 and have recently renovated it to its present cozy and inviting state showing what can be done to a basic Pan Abode through combining original log walls, pine cupboards, pine floors, and antiques with the contemporary look of the lower

level and entrance accented by the use of red tile, glass, brass and modern carpet.

The renovations and additions include insulating and new exterior walls and roof all in keeping with the Pan Abode look, a bright and cheery sun room, skylights, woodclad bathrooms, a new bedroom for Michael and a large new foyer opening to upper levels. Two lower walk-outs lead to the wooded grounds beyond.

One of the most inviting rooms is the sun room which has had greenhouse windows added. It lends itself to relaxing while taking in the gorgeous view of the woods and river flowing by under the covered bridge.

Tickets for the tour are available at any of the homes. Proceeds go to the Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Laughter plays large part in MLT activities

This is the last in series of articles on the behind-the-scenes activity of Markham Little Theatre.

By LIZ WYATT

In more ways than one, in Markham Little Theatre, it is not all work and no play. There's a light side to theatre that makes all the hard work seem like fun.

The cast can often be found collapsed in laughter at rehearsals out at the Cedar Grove Community Centre, when someone pulls a blooper or things get hopelessly mixed up.

A fly on the wall of the set shop at the old Hydro building on Church Street would hear a steady stream of banter, and guffaws above the hammering and pounding and the buzz of power saws.

Meetings are informal and after the necessary business is completed, are enlivened at the end by "yuk-yuks," as members entertain each other with monologues, skits, songs and sometimes even one-act plays.

There's a social side to MLT too. Family picnics in the summer, the annual Thea awards gala in downtown Toronto and of course, cast parties.

A misnomer, the celebration following each play's closing is not limited to the cast, but includes everyone who worked in any capacity on the production, with their friends.

Here presentations and congratulatory speeches are made and the play's high points and funny incidents are commemorated in comic verse.

Like the time several years ago, during a performance of Tunnel of Love, when two actors skipped 18 pages of the script to the consternation of cast and crew. Bunty Webb, a founding member and one of Markham's most popular actresses, reminisces:

"I was standing in the wings, waiting to go on, and Delores Rafuse was waiting for her entrance on the other side, holding this huge birthday cake with about fifty lighted candles on it."

"We waited and waited for my cue, and then we both suddenly realized they'd jumped ahead into the next act. There were two similar lines in the script and when one actor gave the wrong one, the other responded in kind."

"So Delores blew out her can-

dles and I went back to the dressing room to change into my next costume," continues Bunty. "I was almost finished when Chuck Richardson stuck his head in the door and yelled, 'They've gone back! They've gone back!'"

"I scrambled back into the other costume, ran across the hall and as I rushed onstage, I could see Delores out of the corner of my eye frantically trying to relight all those candles. And the prompter was in tears."

As the play neared the second fatal line, the cast nervously wondered how the audience would react to a repetition of dialogue. The actor found a solution. "Now, you remember what I told you a little while ago," he said. "Well, all that still applies."

Then there was the box incident just last fall in a performance of The Creature Creeps. Three characters, known to the cast as the Twisted Sisters and played by Michele Browne, Margaret Endugesick and Marion Hirschberg, did everything in unison.

At the opening of the last act, they had a bit of business wherein they backed away in horror from some spooky goings on and sat down hard on a chest. One night, the lid was inadvertently left up.

Steve Turl, the director, spotted it immediately from the audience, and, appalled, was heard to mutter through his teeth: "Close the box! Can't they see it? Isn't anyone going to close the damn box?"

They couldn't, and no one did. The sisters retreated on cue, sat down on nothing and fell in. The cast broke up—the best they could do was to laugh in character. The audience howled for a full two minutes.

This past week auditions were held for MLT's fall production of On Golden Pond. This coming Monday the theatre group's annual meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at the Cedar Grove Community Centre. New members are welcome.

For further information, call Gail Weir at 294-2766 or Bunty Webb at 294-2535.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Elizabeth Wyatt is immediate past president of MLT and a three-time director.



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5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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