

Starts tomorrow

Students strut at Recital '88

By KATE GILDERDALE
It's the big week of the year for the 240 students from Stouffville's DanceCentre, who will entertain parents, relatives and friends this Thursday and Friday night at Stouffville District Secondary School.

This year's show is the fifth for director Michele Green, with 20 items covering the spectrum from classical ballet to upbeat jazz and tap numbers, and it promises to be the most exciting yet. The recital itself may run over just two nights, but the huge task of putting it together started back in September.

"That's when I begin to look for the music and start assessing the structure of each class," Michele explains. "The music is all chosen by Christmas." Finding the music is extremely time consuming. "You can find a piece you love, but the tempo may be wrong," she states. "Then you have to look for a version that will suit the kind of thing you're doing. I certainly buy a lot of tapes."

From January to March is the time when Michele tackles the biggest job of all: choreography. "One minute of every item takes about an hour to choreograph," she says. She spends much of her time at the studio perfecting each dance.

"By the time the students have taken their ballet exams and returned from March break, I am ready to start teaching them their dances."

It takes several weeks for the students to learn the complete item, and from then until the recital it's practice, practice, practice. The metamorphosis from chaos to order over the weeks is remarkable, with the students as anxious as their teacher to present a polished and smooth performance. Seemingly effortless execution belies the hours of work behind it.

An integral part of any dance recital is the costumes, and once again Irene Norton of Dance Duds is providing a colorful and glittering array of outfits for the students. With her own daughter a student at the DanceCentre, Irene, who was making costumes for a studio in Markham, suggested to Michele that she should consider costume rentals herself.

"It's worked out really well," Michele contends, "renting keeps costs down for parents, and I am very pleased with what Irene has produced for us." For the students, the opportunity to dress up is half the fun, and they await the arrival of their outfits with impatience. With willing parent helpers 'backstage' to help with cos-

tume changes and make up, the final results please everyone.

Sound and lighting is competently handled by Michele's husband Jim. "He is taking next week off to get everything organized," she says. A dancer for many years himself, Jim sits in on the final classes at the studio. Michele finds his comments and suggestions helpful. "It's hard to

be objective when you're so involved yourself," she observes.

Recital '88 takes place at the Stouffville District Secondary School on Thursday, May 26 and Friday, May 27 at 7:45 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$3 each, or for \$4 at the door. For more information call The DanceCentre at 640-6082.

More demand for midwives

By KATE GILDERDALE
With the rise of consumerism and demands for a more personal, caring approach to childbirth, it's not surprising that midwifery's popularity is steadily increasing.

Jane Kiltnei is a midwife who lives in Locust Hill and whose territory includes Stouffville, Balantrae, Musselman's Lake and Newmarket. She is a member of the Association of Ontario Midwives.

"Midwifery has been lost to the medical system for a couple of generations," Jane says. "Because of consumer demand, midwives started coming back in

Ontario about 15 years ago." In addition to serving the public, the association is working with the government to draft legislation that would govern the practice. The government asked the Midwives Association and their consumer group, Midwives Task Force of Ontario, to make recommendations and submit them for consideration.

"This government is committed to legislating and licensing midwives," Jane comments, noting that Ontario has come further than any other province to meet the growing demand for this service. Midwives attend both home and hospital births, "probably about half our births are in hospital and half at home," estimates Jane.

Trusting relationship

"My role is different in each setting," she states. Midwives offer care before, during and after pregnancy. "We provide a course of pre-natal care, dealing with medical issues and basic health. We work towards a trusting relationship so that the woman and her family can feel they are being cared for safely throughout the birth," Jane explains.

In hospital births, the midwife comes to the home in the early stages of labor and accompanies the mother to the hospital, staying with her throughout the birth and providing support when needed. Once the mother arrives at the hospital, the physician takes over the role of primary care, with the midwife as support person.

"My role varies with each hospital and doctor," claims Jane. At first, midwives were regarded warily, but now they are usually greeted with enthusiasm. "We are working with the doctors and nurses, not against them," she notes. "It is very reassuring for the mother to have someone with her throughout the process."

Attend home births

With few doctors willing to attend home births now, two midwives are present to continuously monitor labor and delivery. Only women with low-risk pregnancies can give birth at home, while the midwife can accompany others to the hospital. The pre-screening service midwives offer helps to identify high risk pregnancies.

"At this point, because there is no school there is no licence," Jane states. "The Association of Ontario Midwives has established training protocols."

No need to be nurse

Although nurses do midwifery as part of their training, you don't have to be a nurse to be a midwife, but can be accepted through the direct entry program. "Nurses can make very good midwives," Jane agrees, but she points out that many of them do not specialize in this area.

Jane's interest in midwifery was sparked by her own experience of childbirth. "I was not satisfied with what was being offered and with the struggles I had to go through," she states. As a result, she became a childbirth educator, and from there she went on to midwifery.

At this stage, the service is not offered under OHIP. "We see our care as basic health care," Jane explains, noting that the association eventually hopes to see the service covered by the insurance plan. "I am willing to give an hour of my time free of charge to talk to anyone who is interested in our service," she says. If you want to contact the association, the number to call is 686-2111.

Fire chief hot over burnt shed

WHITCHURCH — Pat McPherson wanted to remove a frame shed from his Bethesda Sideroad property. He requested permission from the Stouffville Fire Department to burn it. The request was refused.

So he set fire to it anyway. As has occurred on previous occasions, the smoke and flames were spotted by a passer-by. Not knowing the circumstances, the eye-witness called in the alarm and four fire units responded.

The cost has been estimated at between \$600 and \$700. "Someone must pay for it," Chief Bill Brown told The Tribune. Chief Brown said he and the property owner would discuss the matter further this week.

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