

Arts & Entertainment

Books

Illustrator/author has passion for his work

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Correspondent

It doesn't take long to discover acclaimed author/illustrator Ian Wallace's natural affinity for children and his passion for the kind of work he does.

Wallace was a guest at Orchard Park Public School Monday during 'I love to read' week and his enjoyment of his youthful audience was clearly reciprocated by students from kindergarten to Grade 8.

Happily for his many loyal fans, Wallace has no aspirations to 'graduate' to the world of adult literature, since he firmly believes that his chosen field gives him far greater freedom and scope for creativity.

"I have no desire to do adult books - I much prefer working on books for young people, but there's no doubt that children's literature doesn't get the same respect," he observed.

He finds visiting schools and meeting the people he writes for an exhilarating experience.

"I've been doing this for 17 years, ever

since a teacher invited me to come into a school.

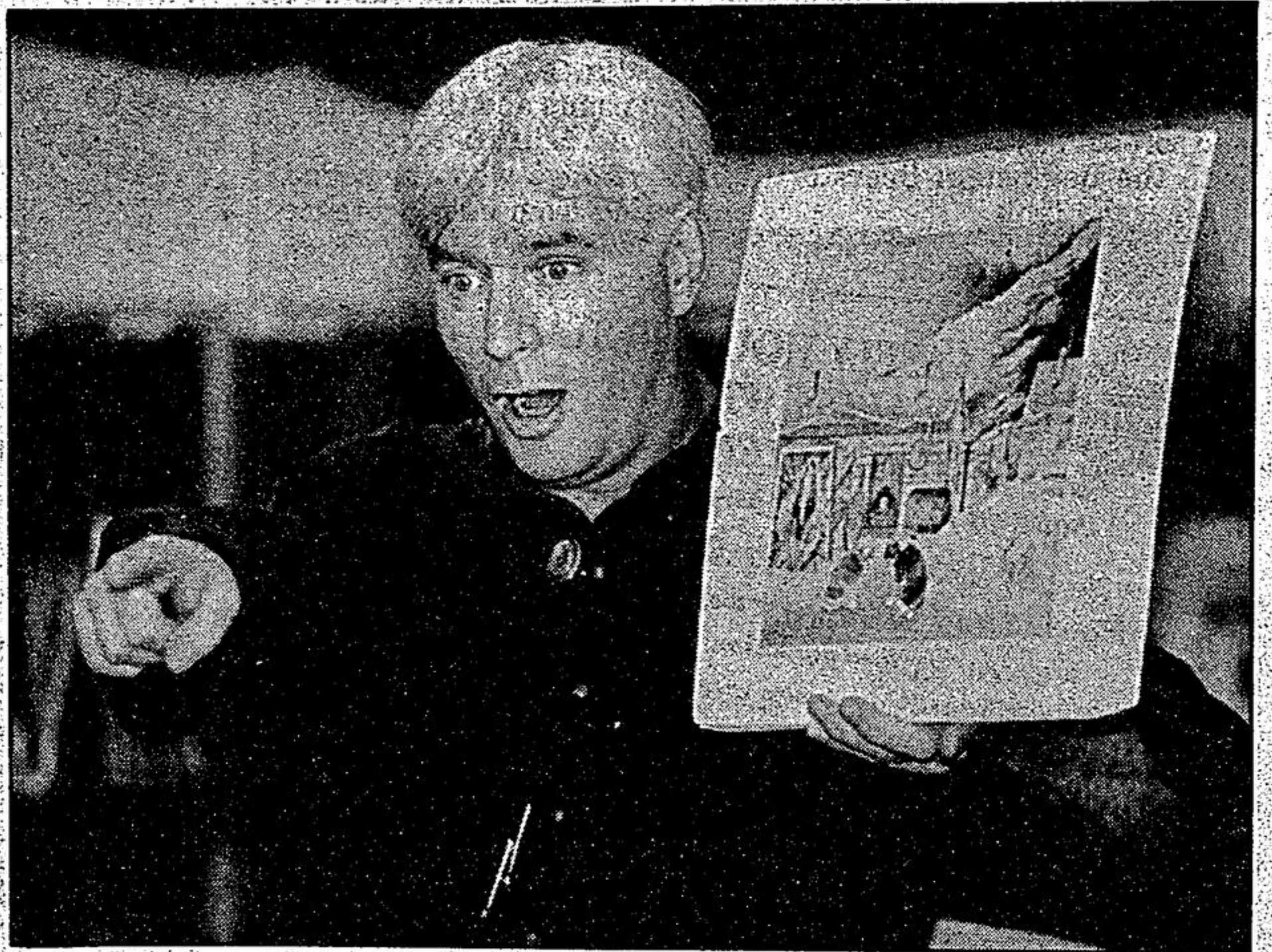
"That's what started the ball rolling. I realized that I really enjoyed coming in and working with young people, and in particular exposing them to the world of books."

It was his artistic inclinations that led him to become a writer in the first place. "Almost all illustrators who also become authors start that way, but I don't know of any writers who have decided to pick up a brush and paint."

Born in Niagara Falls, Wallace has been interested in story telling and illustrating since he was a child. He remembers being enchanted by the stories his grandparents told him of their early lives in a coal-mining town in Wales.

Inspired by one of his best-loved books, *Chin Chiang and the Dragon's Dance*, one class at Orchard Park constructed and painted a superb sculpture of a baby dragon and another group created a beautifully illustrated dragon wall hanging.

Wallace doesn't have a favorite book



Photos STEVE SOMERVILLE



Ian Wallace enjoyed his time with staff and students at Orchard Park this week.

but, like a parent with his children, each one has a special place in his heart. "When a book comes out you hope people will raise this 'child' in the spirit that it was created," he observed.

"You learn something from each book, take it with you and carry it into the next project and try to keep improving. It's like the kid who's practising the piano - with each note and practice session you're honing that skill."

Wallace not only writes and illustrates his own work, he also creates illustrations for other authors, and he researches each book meticulously before he starts.

For his illustrations in *Very Last First Time*, an Inuit story written by Jan Andrews, Wallace studied Inuit art and mythology and visited the McMichael Gallery to observe paintings by the Group of Seven.

His research for *Chin Chiang and the Dragon's Dance*, a book he spent six years writing and illustrating, took him to Vancouver, where he immersed himself in the customs and traditions of that city's vibrant Chinese community.

Wallace considers himself very lucky to be able to do what he does and, when he's not touring schools and libraries, he's busy at work on ideas for his next book.

What's On

Beyond Craft on today at Latcham Gallery

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 27**

Through Nov. 27, Beyond Craft is on at Latcham Gallery. Once again, the gallery is transformed into a boutique of contemporary crafts including pottery, baskets, blown glass, handmade books, dried flowers, jewelry, cards, clothing, paper, chocolates, folk art and more.

A special early bird openings will be held tonight from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$4 and include refreshments. Some artists will be on hand.

The show continues Nov 25 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Nov. 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission on these days is free.

At the Stouffville Legion, turkey and chicken rolls begin. There will be two winners per roll.

Try your luck, and bring a

friend. All are welcome.

Parkview Home on Rupert Ave. hosts its annual Christmas bazaar from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Crafts, knitting, quilts, baking, candy, a tea room and silent auction are featured.

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 28**

A musical worship service will be held at Parkview Village on Ninth Line at 7 p.m.

Grey Cup '93 celebrations are on a big screen television at the Legion on Ninth Line. Kick off is 6:30 p.m. and the bar is open at noon.

There will be a hot and cold buffet. The cost is \$5 per person. Tickets at the Legion hall.

**WEDNESDAY
DEC. 1**

Stouffville-Goodwood Christian Women's Club invites all to a morning cof-

fee with the theme 'Happy Holidays' at Parkview Village Auditorium from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Cost is \$5.50 and includes Happy Hints for Entertaining, Songs of Happiness with Carrie Mels, and Anne Worts, sharing memories of Christmas in All About Happiness.

Call Diane Duncan at 649-0029 or Linda Chant at 852-5391. Babysitting is available by reservation.