



Ann Gage, music director, for this year's annual Stouffville Music Mania show led participants through an early run-through at a meeting this week. From left, Gage addresses the troops, gives them a let's get down to business speech,

says let's take it from the top, then finally has a laugh and says let's try it again -- this time in tune.

Photos/STEVE SOMERVILLE

## Music Mania celebrates 35th anniversary

By MIKE RUTA  
Staff Reporter

This year's performance will be the 35th put on by Stouffville's Music Maniacs.

Over the years, the show has brought a lot of people together and the friendships have continued long after the music stopped.

"We love it," said Carolyn Duggan, who with her husband, David, has been a Music Maniac since 1988.

"We've gotten to know so many people in town. It's a wonderful way to meet people."

The Duggans moved to Stouffville in 1986, then saw the show the following year and were hooked.

This year they will be in the chorus and David will also participate in some skits. David is a former Music Mania director and producer.

Carolyn said the show had its origins in a smaller, less formal setting. "The United Church Couples Club started Music Mania," she said. "A core group of people started doing skits for themselves. I guess they thought, at some point, it would be fun to do a real show and give the profits back to the community."

Duggan said this year marks a second milestone, as Music Mania will pass the \$50,000 mark in terms of funds given back to organizations and individuals like Markham Stouffville Hospital.

The Couples Club is still an important part of Music Mania, she said.

"They're always out there doing something. You have this blend of a lot of people with experience and new people coming in," said Duggan.

This year's show, To be Continued, was going to be centered on a comparison between the first show and the present production. But the Maniacs decided instead to look forward.

"The main thrust of it is just what the title says," said Duggan. "We keep on going."

Sharron and Jim Brazier have been Music Maniacs for 32 years.

"It's become a way of life, really," said Sharron.

For the first 17 years she was a dancer in the show, but "there comes a time when a dancer has to retire," she said.

Sharron will be singing in the chorus this year and helping with the stage choreography. David works on the set and takes part in skits.

Performing runs in the family. The Brazier's youngest son is a singer/dancer in New York.

Another son was unlucky enough to be born in the wrong month.

"All of his childhood he never had his birthday on his birthday because he knew it was Music Mania time," said Sharron. "It had to wait."

Music Mania is always held on the last weekend in April.

## York Region RIDE numbers stable despite stopping more cars

By MIKE RUTA  
Staff Reporter

This Christmas season's RIDE program saw little change from last year's program.

gram, said Staff Sgt. Bill Postill of the York Region police traffic unit.

"We had a few more charges, but we stopped 52 per cent more cars," he said.

"There's no change in my

estimation."

While the number of alcohol-related charges was up, from 21 to 30, he said 10,000 more vehicles were stopped this year compared to last. In fact, with 30,137 vehicles

stopped, the number of charges laid may actually have decreased, when taken as a percentage.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General gave York police \$13,571 in funding to beef up this year's program.

Postill said this meant that two, four-person teams could operate from Thursday to Saturday instead of one.

This year's figures show that:

- 16 people were charged with driving over 80, compared to 14 last year.

- 10 motorists were charged with impaired driving, compared to seven last year.

- 71 people received a 12-

hour suspension of their license, compared to 51 last year.

Four motorists were charged with refusing to take a roadside test. No one was charged last year.

Postill admitted that he "hates the stats" because they can be so misleading. "The figures are there, but don't read too much into it," he said.

For example, while 20 more people had their licenses suspended for 12 hours,

Postill emphasized that 200 more roadside tests were administered.

The RIDE program will operate mainly on long weekends until December.

## Man in hospital after plane crash

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off power to the area and Consumer's Gas cut the gas lines to Toys and Wheels within minutes.

Markham Fire Department has recently completed a training course on responding to plane crashes and airport emergencies. "We

can never take for granted the highly trained professionals who are standing by to protect individuals and our whole community," said Markham Mayor Don Cousens.

The plane was hoisted from the roof by crane yesterday afternoon. The crash is under investigation by Transport Canada.



Stouffville's Rick Banz lashed this Cessna 210 Centurian on the roof of a toy warehouse by Markham's Buttonville Airport Thursday night. He is recovering in hospital from the crash.

PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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