

# Christmas exuberance retaliation for Halloween hi-jinx

Back in August, visions of sugar plums began dancing in my head.

This obsession with Christmas started years ago as a child. I blame my family for this Yuletide affliction that seems to be getting worse as the years go by. There was never a pile of presents or a load of goodies but this was always a wonderful fantasy-filled time of year for me.

Now to keep a semblance of normalcy I try to refrain from singing carols out loud until after Labour Day weekend. I figure by then fall is here and people shouldn't be surprised to hear a Christmas tune, or so I convince myself.

My poor husband has to live with me pouring over Christmas recipe books and gift catalogues, and babbling about every aspect of the season for months on end. For years he has put up with this insanity silently grinning and bearing it - and I wonder were his gray comes from.

Now, after all these years of marriage, he felt brave enough to finally lay down the Christmas law. The

rules are, no carol singing until Halloween passes and no decorations up until after the Santa Claus parade.

I can live with the decoration rule but the tunes have a life of their own.

Pity him if you want but this is my payback for the torture he puts me through every Halloween. As soon as the leaves start falling he turns into Freddy Kruger and nothing delights him more than scaring me half to death. One night I went into the washroom and a head was silhouetted in the moonlight on the counter. Hubby had mounted a clown mask on a wig stand and left it for me to find. I cannot list the number of times he had hidden and surprised me with various hideous



Rural Route Ruth

Ruth LeBlanc

masks on. This just breaks him up as I clutch my heart and tell him I am getting to old for this and one day he will go too far and I will have a heart attack. Just how I ask, would he explain my white hair standing on end with my eyes open in terror to the coroner.

This is why I relish taunting him with "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas", just to watch him cringe. If Christmas is not your favorite time of the year maybe I can brighten up the season for you.

From visiting a Christmas tree farm to interviewing Santa to sharing old tales and new stories we are going to have some holiday fun, whether you want to or not!

## SDSS scene

### Semi-formal dance promises to be best ever

By JOHN LAMBERSKY  
Correspondent

For the first time ever, the semi-formal dance at Stouffville District Secondary School will be held off school property. Student council social convenors Kathryn Easter, Wendy Pegg and Jill Villeneuve worked very hard to ensure that this year's annual winter soiree would be held at Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club.

"The students thought that gymnasium at the school just didn't have the atmosphere that Sleepy Hollow would," said student council president Jordan Butcher. "Also, it's nice to have a change (from the gym to Sleepy Hollow)."

The meal will be a sit-down dinner (as opposed to past buffets), with the hassle of the clean-up to be taken care of by the golf club, said Butcher.

Students, it seems, couldn't agree more with student council's new idea. Most would rather socialize off school property.

"I'm glad that it is finally going to be held someplace other than SDSS,"

said Dave Rzadkowski, 17.

The administration had some initial reservations, though. They didn't see the need to change locations, said Butcher. Also, the students attending are required to sign a contract this year, agreeing to abstain from drinking alcohol, before or during the dance. The principal and vice-principal were persuaded to allow the dance to be held at Sleepy Hollow after all, mainly because of the professional job the social convenors did, said Butcher.

All reservations aside, though, spirits are running high at SDSS. The change in location promises to make this one of the best semi-formals yet. This may be just the thing to hold on to - flagging school spirit that has plagued SDSS in the past few years.

Tickets for the dance sold out quickly and this week the final seating arrangements are being put together. Semi-formal will take place on Dec. 6. Attendance for the dance is expected to be about 200.

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