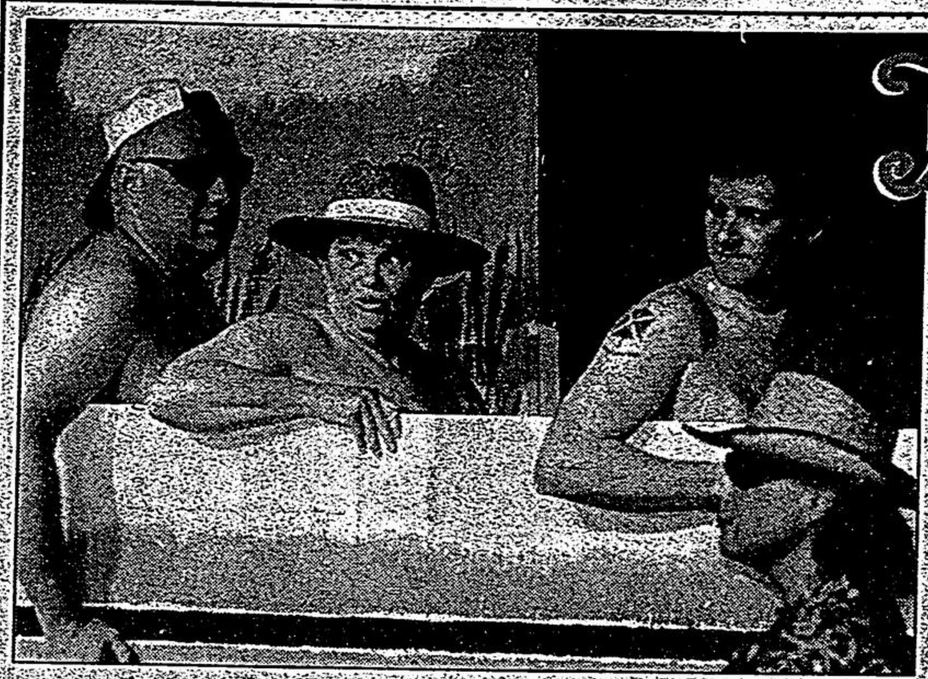
Music Mania



Opening night of Music Mania, proved the cast and crew were out to have a great time entertaining Stouffville with their Tour de Farce show. Clockwise from top left: A blind beachgoer and three nude surfers in a skit called I can see clearly now; Lana Black in the Girl from Ipanema; Sharon, Jean, Gary and Vince sing *Faraway Places*; Truth in Travel skit includes the Dimbulb Family traveling to Mexico; Jim B. and Rick are the Tour de Farce emcees; Skits included an encounter between tourists and a Scotsman.

Photos by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Never political, Blackburn says

■ From page 1 ■

decades, Blackburn has worked with many politicians.

While some were exceptional, others mediocre and some quite challenging, Blackburn's not offering an opinion one way or the other.

"In 32 years, I never got political. I'm not going to do it on the way out," he said.

A bureaucrat must know his or her place, stressed Blackburn. "A bureaucrat should give advice to their council."

Blackburn has never been a man of surprises. "I was always upfront with council," he said. "I never held back. I gave advice on a professional level and I've always been honest."

The staff of Whitchurch-Stouffville is the best, stressed Blackburn. "No one works alone. I've worked with a great crew and I've enjoyed it."

Blackburn insists that over the next four months, he'll continue to do his job.

"I fully intent to carry out the duties as I have done in the past," said Blackburn.

Local man escapes custody

POLICE

A Stouffville man escaped police custody Wednesday by feigning illness.

Vance Patterson, 33, was sharing a cell in an Oshawa courthouse when he convinced the police that he was ill. "He was there for a bail hearing on minor charges," said Durham Regional Police Sgt. John Wright. Patterson was taken to Oshawa General Hospital where he escaped from the emergency unit.

"He feigned illness," said Wright. "If someone says he's ill, there's little else we can do. He must be given medical care. This was a clever ploy on his part."

A warrant has been issued for Patterson's arrest. He is described as five-feet, 11-inches tall, 190 pounds, with with dark brown medium length greasy hair. Patterson is not considered dangerous, said Wright.

Crimestoppers cop helps fight cancer

■ From page 1 ■

paign was born.

"The original goal was to put a coin container in every police station in Edmonton," Snooks told the Orchard Park students. "The goal for the first year was to raise $500. They received tremendous support from the citizens everywhere and raised $12,000 in 11 months."

A police officer for more than 24 years, Snooks has lived in town and worked in York Region for the past 17.

"For six of those years I worked in the schools as a safety officer, teaching Kindergarten to Grade 8."

His first intimation of his illness came in August 1996, when he began to suffer pain in his left leg.

"After talking to several doctors and undergoing a number of tests, it was determined that I had cancer. In January 1997, I began chemotherapy treatments and, yes, just like Lyle and thousands of other patients, I lost all my hair not once, but twice." At the beginning of June, he underwent a total left hip replacement, which was followed by a second round of chemotherapy. "In September I was told that the cancer had been beaten and that I was cancer free."

Throughout his illness, he has received full support from his department, said Snooks. He now coordinates Crime Stoppers for York Region and undertakes speaking engagements for organizations such as the Lions Club and regional Chambers of Commerce.

All proceeds from Cops For Cancer go to the Canadian Cancer Society. For more information, call Snooks at 764-1300 extension 7911, or pick up a pledge form at Orchard Park Public School on Sunset Blvd.

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