

ARTS & CULTURE

# Pantomime troupe paints town red

*Little Red Riding Hood off to visit Granny in Christ Church re-telling of fairy tale*

NOREEN O'LEARY  
CORRESPONDENT

Christ Church's Youth Group is once again bringing comedy and confusion to Stouffville.

The group is presenting *Little Red Riding Hood*, its sixth production of a traditional English pantomime.

More than 30 young people are involved in this year's performance, ranging in age from seven to teenagers.

English pantomime is the re-telling of a well-known fairy tale that promises great fun for the whole family.

It includes singing, dancing, high drama and slapstick and topical humour.

Audience participation is encouraged whether it be to cheer the heroine or boo the villain.

According to Rose Lloyd of Christ Church, quite a bit of creative licence has been taken with this year's fairytale.

Re-written by veteran pantomime performer Charlie Parker, the performance includes additional characters, including an evil baron and a prince.

It also includes at least one Markham or Uxbridge joke.

"We fit in what is politically correct for the day, and whatever is happening in the local political scene," Lloyd said.

In traditional pantomime fashion, some female roles will be played by male performers, while some male roles will be played by female performers.

The performance stars Laura Fockler as Red Riding Hood herself, Charlie Parker as Grandmother, Caris Reid as the Bad Wolf, Melanie Boyd as the Prince and Peter Markle as the Evil Baron.

Choreography is by Lindsey Hutchinson and Amanda Parker, musical direction by Julia Topping, and Mark Peters, and direction by Denise Pettitt.

*Little Red Riding Hood* will play at Latham Hall on March 5 at 7:30 pm and March 6 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children and are available through Stouffville Florist at 6343 Main St. and Christ Church.

For more information call 640-1461.



STAFF PHOTO/SIOERD WITTEVEEN

The Town of Markham celebrated Black History month with an awards ceremony at the council chambers on Tuesday. Posing with members of council and Markham's race relations committee are, from left, the Black History Recognition Awards recipients Jacqueline Skyers and Pat O'Connor, race relations committee chairperson Rick Evans, Cynthia Duncan, Derrick Scott, Vilma Cornelius, Mayor Don Cousens, Verde Lorde, Clive Hylton (accepting for Maureen Reynolds), Ward 5 Councillor Jack Heath, Ruth Teague, Penny Cromwell-Fileen, Glyn Bancroft, Diana Mills-Tetty and Lennox Fraser.

## Black leaders honoured

*History of black community remembered*

BY MIKE ADLER  
STAFF WRITER

"We will fight for the right to be free," one group of schoolchildren sang in Markham's council chambers this week as the town celebrated black history and recognized community leaders.

The song presented by children of Parkland Public School in Milliken during the event, "talks about the history of black people throughout Africa and how they often lived in oppression and were ruled by others," Grade 5 Parkland student Tashauna Williams said.

The song, about the taking of power for all people, also speaks to the future, Camille Hadaway, a fellow fifth grader, told the crowd.

The audience was also treated to the singing of spirituals, jazz standards and the anthem *Lift Every Voice* before Mayor Don Cousens, and Markham councillors presented awards to the following black community leaders:

Jacqueline Skyers, a volunteer teacher at the Milliken African Caribbean Canadian Upliftment Program; Milliken Mills High School teacher Pat O'Connor, Upliftment volunteers Cynthia Duncan, Derrick Scott and Maureen Reynolds; former Milliken Mills High vice-principal Vilma Cornelius; Verde Lorde, school council chairperson and Upliftment parent co-ordinator; volunteer teacher Ruth Teague; parent volunteer Penny Cromwell-Fileen; Coppard Glen Public School principal Glyn Bancroft; Unionville pediatrician Diana Mills-Tetty; and Lennox Fraser, a founding contributor to the Markham African Caribbean Association.

This is the fourth year the town has honoured its citizens during February, Black History Month. "A history not told is a history forgotten," warned Tessa Benn-Ireland, a librarian and Milliken's public school trustee.

Later, Williams said she was thinking about the history of black people, and "how they had the power to fight back and get their freedom."

## Skylark harmonizes at the Blue Haze

Local trio Skylark presents an evening of swing, sing and boogie at the Blue Haze Jazz Lounge.

Rich harmonies, fabulous songs and polished showmanship are the hallmarks of this act.

Intricate harmonies are provided by Bonita Craig, who has a background in musical theatre (having been artistic director at Markham Theatre), Dyanne Dumas, who has worked in television, radio, dinner theatre and clubs, and

Zoe Odin, who paid her dues as a clown, magician, comic, singing telegram messenger and DJ.

All three women have formal training in either dance or music.

Skylark's entertainment runs from pop and jazz to country and rock with a good dose of tributes to the Big Band era.

Catch Skylark March 1 at 8:30 p.m. at the Blue Haze, 5 Washington St., Markham.

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*Dedicated to Community Music*

**Do you love Broadway Tunes?**

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Our special guests are Sing Co. Patients, a high energy vocal jazz ensemble from Newmarket High School, under the direction of Paul Nicholson.

Adults \$14, Seniors & Children \$10  
Call Markham Theatre at 305-SHOW(7469) to reserve your tickets today  
Monday to Saturday 11 am to 6 pm

**Don't Miss This Weekend!**

**Father's**

Thursday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> OPEN JAM Hosted by Groove Train  
Friday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> VIRGIL SCOTT 5 piece R & B and Rock Band  
& Saturday Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> OPEN 9-BALL Tournament - cash prizes  
Sunday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

Call for details  
**294-0134**  
Corner of Hwy. #7 and McCowan Rd.

**Opera York stages Madama Butterfly**

Passion and betrayal unite with some of the world's most memorable music, when a headstrong young Japanese geisha marries a visiting American, in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*.

Opera York presents the perennially beloved musical drama Saturday, March 6 at the Famee Furlane, 7065 Islington Ave. at Steeles Avenue in Woodbridge.

Presented in conjunction with the Culture Committee of the Famee Furlane, the evening begins with a 6:30 p.m. reception, and dinner of fine Italian cuisine at 7:30 p.m.

Soprano Stephanie Piercey stars as the young Japanese woman who forsakes her family and religion to marry the American naval officer, Pinkerton. Tenor Stephen Harland is the callous Pinkerton, who considers his marriage arrangement much more flexible.

Neal Pupulin will perform Italian favourites on accordion during the reception and dinner.

For tickets and information, phone Opera York, (416) 469-0086 or Famee Furlane, (905) 851-1166.