



STAFF PHOTOS/HANNELORE VOLPPE

Former Guess Who guitarist Dale Russell and singer/songwriter Artemis perform Monday songwriting workshop for students at Ballantrae Public School.

# Musicians bring songs to Ballantrae school

BY HANNELORE VOLPPE  
Staff Writer

Ballantrae Public School students will soon be humming new tunes and coming up with heartfelt lyrics to songs they've created, thanks to a program introduced this week.

Musician and songwriter Don Quarles of Musselman's Lake, introduced the SASS (School Alliance for Student Songwriters) initiative to an assembly at the Aurora Road school Monday.

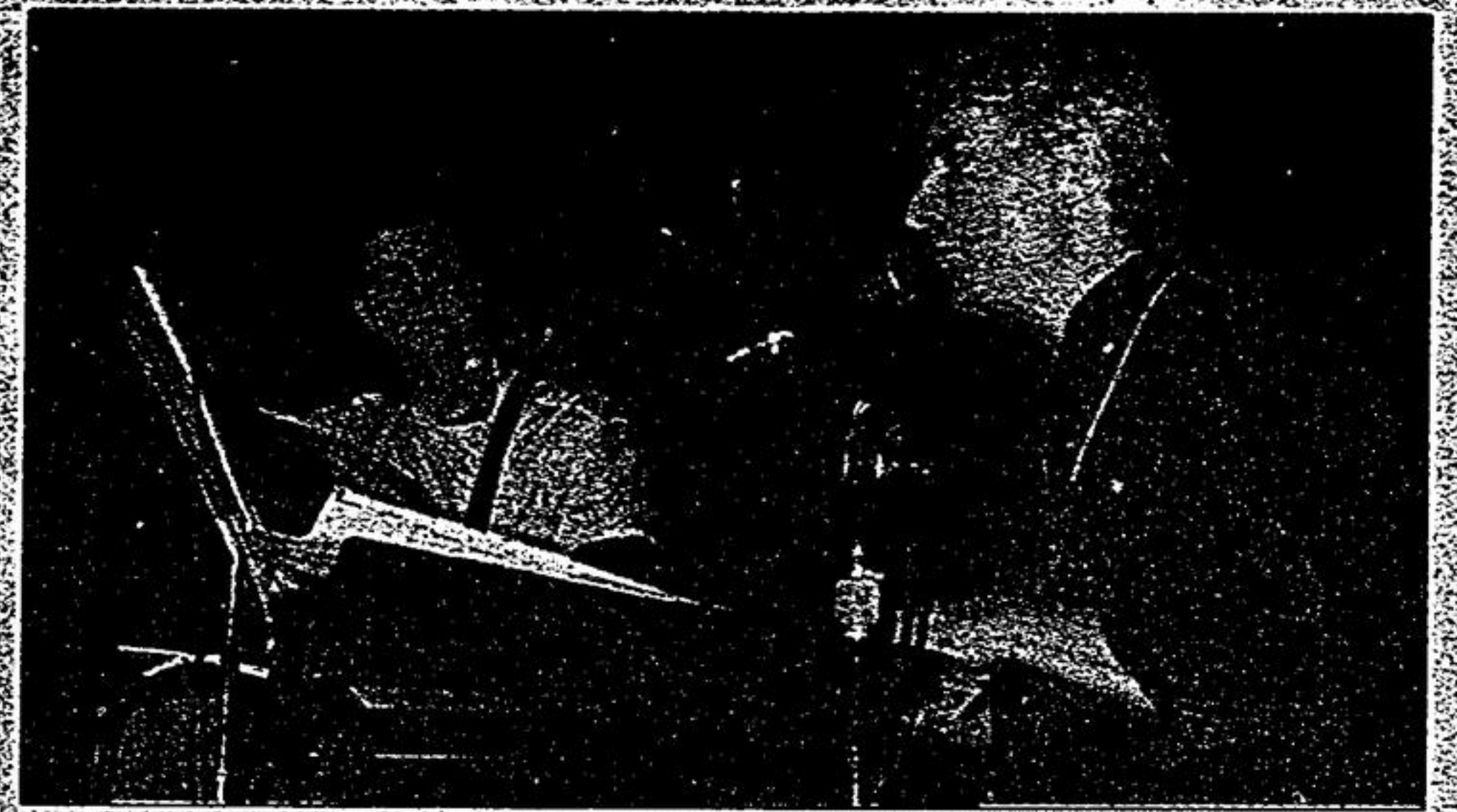
Helping him were former Guess Who guitarist Dale Russell, Grade 4 teacher Jason Kalizcak and Ballantrae songwriter William Wallace.

Mr. Quarles is one of the four founders of the program.

After a successful pilot project last year, the SASS program was introduced to a dozen schools in Durham Region. That number will be expanded this year.

The program is designed to fit the curriculum taught in each grade.

Ballantrae is the first school in York Region to take part in



Musselman's Lake resident Don Quarles (right) and Joe Taylor talk to students at Ballantrae event organized by Mr. Quarles.

the songwriting workshops, which Mr. Quarles will lead twice a month. The songwriters hold monthly workshops at high schools.

### SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

"We wanted to bring music into the schools," said Mr. Quarles, who is also the songwriting workshop co-ordinator for the Nashville Songwriters Association International.

Students will learn about lyric writing, song structure,

writing a chorus and "eventually learning how to create a melody out of thin air," he added. They'll also learn how to collaborate with other students.

This program gives youngsters a chance to see musicians who have had successful careers in the music industry. It is sponsored by Leland Industries, a Toronto company.

Information on the program is available by calling 905-642-3645.

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