

Rehearsals in high gear for Music Mania

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Sequins, black lights, hilarious skits and loads of music and dancing return to Stouffville for the 45th annual Music Mania variety show next month.

More than 150 people have been rehearsing for the show Everything Old is News Again since the beginning of the year. Performances are April 28 to 30 in the Stouffville District Secondary School auditorium.

New this year is the addition of the Men of Note chorus. It will perform with the Music Mania chorus as well as on its own.

The chorus features a new music director, Margot Rejskind, who succeeded Jeffrey McAloon. He was transferred by his company to Saint John, New Brunswick, in December.

With a doctorate in musical arts and literature from the University of Illinois, Ms Rejskind has directed a number of choirs

and choruses including the Concordia University Concert Choir, the McGill University Women's Chorale in Montreal and the University of Illinois Concert Choir.

She is a trained singer and founding member of a six-member professional group performing medieval and renaissance music.

Longtime Music Mania member Heather Andrews, who returned to the show chorus after a two-year break, noted the men are

back in the chorus. Last year, only two men joined women in the chorus; this year, there are 14 in the 40-voice choir.

Some songs will be performed in more than one style and "there are a couple of tear-jerkers", Ms Andrews said.

There are a number of people following their parents' footsteps in the show. Bonnie Neprily, 22, Emily Martin, 20, and 25-year-old Jeff Larkin join the dancers while Siobhan Baxter takes

on the job of auditorium manager.

Tom Pullen again heads the band and Melissa Ferguson is the music director. Jeanette Emslie is producing the show while Sharon Baxter directs the skits.

Gayle Dunn is director for the second year in a row and has been working on the show since September.

She tries to look in on most of the rehearsals during the week as well as attending planning meetings.

A Music Mania fundraising dance and silent auction is being held at Latham Hall on Park Drive South in Stouffville April 9

beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the show are \$15 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and younger.

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Tickets are available next month at Cards' TV and Appliances, Fame International, M&M Meat Shops, Reids Antiques, Stouffville Florist, Latham Gallery and the 1001 Variety store.

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Five groups will split \$1.4 million for conservation projects on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The grants will improve the Oak Ridges Trail, secure sensitive forests and monitor the health of the moraine, which is the source of the region's rivers,

the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation said.

"We are available to discuss applications with interested groups and the board meets frequently to make funding decisions," foundation executive director Michael Scott said.

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