

## Stouffville Says

By Hannelore Volpe

### What are you doing to go greener?

— Asked at the Care & Share Thrift Shop in Stouffville

Judy LAMBERT



My next choice of car would be a hybrid vehicle. I also need to replace some windows in the house.

Mandy DAY



My 10-year-old son is very aware of recycling. He lets us know. We donate used clothing to local charities. On large article pick-up days, when we put out usable items, we'll put out a sign for people to help themselves.

Judy DINELLE



I turn off the lights as need be and all my appliances are low-energy users.

Christine LEDGARD



I would like to see the new garbage sorting system, which includes wet garbage, implemented by the town as soon as possible. I would like more people to recycle.

# Maniacs look forward to new digs

47-year-old variety show moving to new school after one last production

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

When you're at this year's Music Mania show, take a good look around: this is the last year the venerable music and variety show will be in the Stouffville District Secondary School auditorium.

After 47 years, Music Mania is looking forward to more modern quarters — and luxuries such as a stage with dressing rooms close by — at the new Stouffville high school slated to open in September.

Co-producer Jean Buchan has been in touch with the York Region District School Board and has had a chance to study the floor plans for the new school behind Sobeyes on Weldon Road.

Music Mania would be in the new school's cafetorium, on a stage that can face both it and the drama room on the other side. Although Ms. Buchan isn't sure of the exact numbers the new room could hold, it would be at least as much as the current SDSS gym, she estimates.

She'll have a chance to see the new facility for herself around the end of April. She's looking forward to the sound and light systems that will be built in to the cafetorium space.

Traditionally, all the sound and lighting equipment has had to be lugged in and out for each rehearsal at SDSS throughout April.

Proceeds from this year's annual dance and silent auction will be earmarked to cover moving costs.

#### JOINED IN 1961

One person who has been with the show since seeing it for the first time in 1960 is Ivan Harris, who has been both on stage and behind the scenes since 1961. He honed his craft during more than 35 years in the special effects department and machine shop at the CBC. Now he helps out with Music Mania by trouble-shooting or building specialized props.

He recalls chorus members singing bravely on after coiled-up wiring leading to a 3,000 watt spotlight started burning and fusing together, filling the stage with acrid smoke.

He still winces when he remembers the old-fashioned microphones, about the size of fuzzy baseballs, dangling all over the stage to catch the

## MUSIC MANIA A TOWN TRADITION

► **OLD SCHOOL:** Stouffville District Secondary School has been home to Music Mania since the first show was produced in 1960.

► **LEADERS:** Peggy Topping was the show's first producer and Kay Dowsnell, wardrobe mistress.

► **GOOD CAUSES:** Music Mania is sponsored by the Stouffville United Church Couples Club. Money raised at the show is presented to local charities. This year's receipts go to the York Durham Academy of the Performing Arts.

► **IT'S A DATE:** This year's show goes April 26, 27 and 28. Newcomers to the show can expect plenty of singing, dancing and humour pointed at local institutions.

choir's tones.

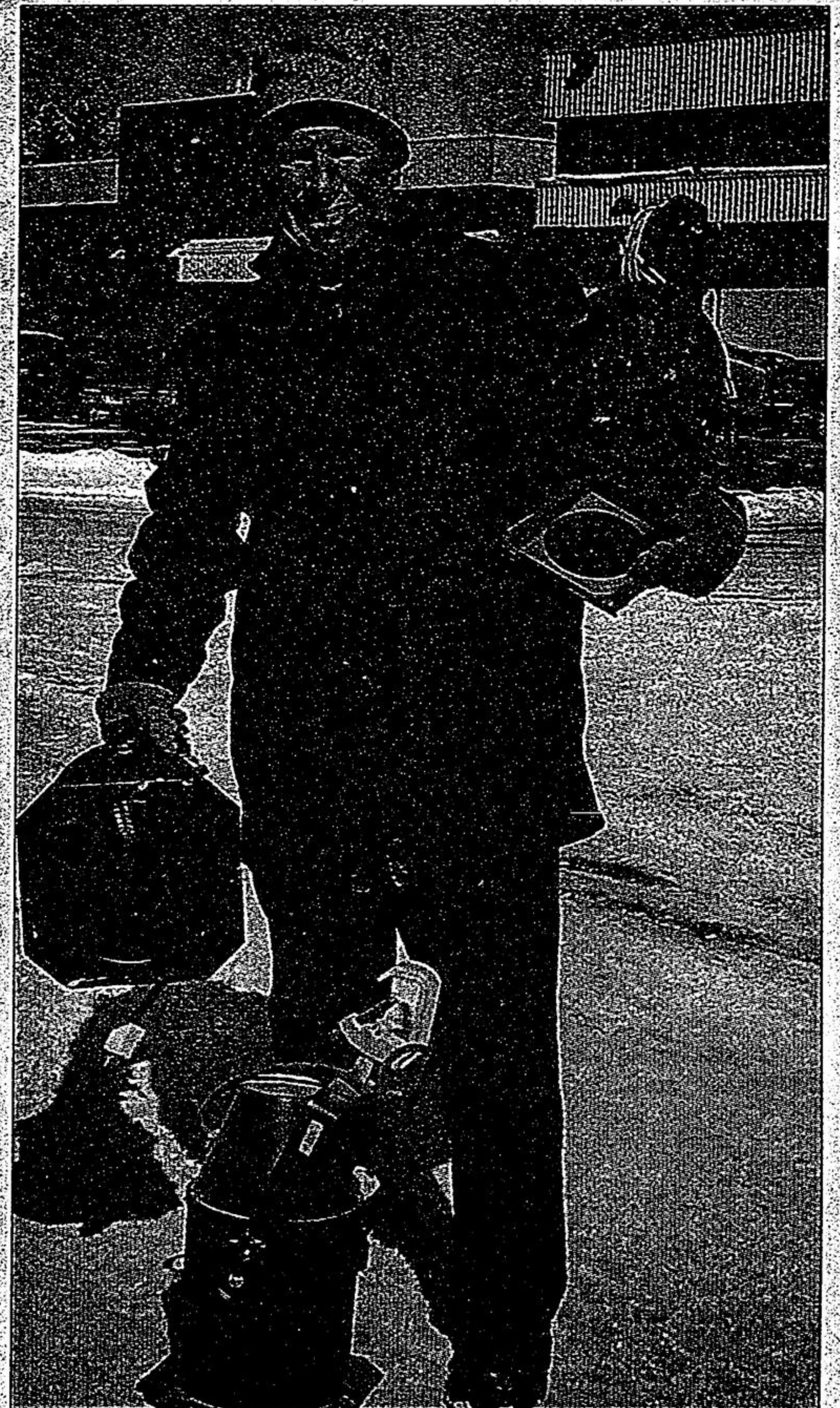
One sound effect, which was never repeated, involved a TV set which was supposed to go BOOM, but exploded with a deafening noise because someone put in too much gunpowder. The TV set was totalled on the first night of the show, Mr. Harris recalled.

This year's production of 24...and So Much More takes the audience on a musical journey around a typical day, although nobody's saying whose typical day.

The chorus, singers, musicians, dancers, actors, black light troupe and skit people will present a show blending mirth, inspiration and nostalgia while razzing a local politician or two and a making a few not-so-subtle digs at Uxbridge.

Gayle Dunn, who co-produces the show along with Jean Buchan, is following the family tradition. Her parents, Bruce and Bunny Burton, have been in Music Mania around 40 years, and Ms. Dunn's daughter, Melissa, also takes part.

The band is led by Tom Pullin, the director of the show is David Baxter and the assistant director is Sharon Baxter. Dance director is Natalie Wood; the skits are directed by Rick Lightfoot, the music



STAFF PHOTO/HANNELORE VOLPE

Music Mania's Ivan Harris lugs equipment into Stouffville District Secondary School for the 2007 production of the variety show. Participants are eager to move into the better-equipped new high school.

director is Marg Cunningham and Jane Barrow is the technical coordinator.

The shows begin at 7:30 p.m., a half hour earlier than usual, on April 26, 27 and 28.

#### DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE

When the curtain falls on the final performance April 28, it will be "the end of an era", Liz Lightfoot, a 25-year Music Mania veteran, said. "It will be exciting to be in a new place."

Looking back over her years with Music Mania, Mrs. Lightfoot recalls the time when chorus members actually slipped off the back risers.

Fortunately, there was a doctor in the house — Dr. Donald

Petrie — to come to their rescue.

Another long-time member, Fenella Smith, noted, "The old school is quite challenging at times."

Makeshift dressing rooms were far enough from the stage that actors and dancers had to sprint between costume changes to make it back on time.

"Some people broke the four-minute mile," she said.

This year Music Mania is supporting the York Durham Academy of the Performing Arts.

Tickets, at \$15 for adults and \$6 for children under 12, are available at local businesses.

# Two Great Reasons to Own a Corkscrew!

Two great wines delivered to your door every month. These wines not available anywhere else in Ontario.

In affiliation with  
**yrng**  
YORK REGION NATURE & GARDENS

In partnership with  
**wineOnline.ca**  
Taste the Difference

Visit [www.YorkRegionWineClub.com](http://www.YorkRegionWineClub.com)  
or call (416) 532-8565 or 1-866-979-2946.

**YRWC**  
YORK REGION WINE CLUB