

Student music showcase hits all right notes

We're a community of volunteers. While undoubtedly every town in Ontario can lay claim to this distinction, Whitchurch-Stouffville's record is outstanding.

Whatever the cause, people respond. They number in the hundreds, maybe thousands.

In this regard, my assistance pales in comparison to many others.

I find it impossible to keep pace with those who daily perform duties without thought of time and cost.

And often without thanks. However, there's none among us who doesn't have priorities, occasions that lead lengthy lists.

Me, too. And it occurred Friday evening — the annual Student Music Scholarship Concert at Stouffville District Secondary School.

Consider this. Four hundred students, representing seven schools, on a single evening, performing vocally and instrumentally before a packed auditorium of appreciative parents.



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

Such was the scenario Nov. 18.

It surpassed an experience anyone in an organizing role could only hope to hear and see.

But it couldn't have happened without co-operation, teamwork provided by 10 teachers: Susan Whitebread, St. Mark; Jennifer Faric, Harry Bowes; Rachelle Nieboer, Stouffville Christian; Ingrid Legros, Ballantrae; Michael Macchione, Whitchurch Highlands; Lisa Taylor, Melissa King and Janet Mann, Glad Park; Miriam Sellick-Smith and Diane Marlatt, Stouffville

Secondary.

By masters of ceremonies, Jim and Ryan Mason. By technicians Ashley Alexander, Gary Burke, Ivan Harris, Leif Johnson, Adian McCoy, Chris Hogan and Alex Boukin. By keyboard accompanist Eugenie Landry.

By greeters, ushers, parking attendants and high school custodians.

And by the evening's guest of honour, Colton Carrick. The Grade 12 scholarship recipient had the audience applauding to the skirl of the pipes.

Although a sound system glitch delayed the concert's start by 20 minutes, would-be listeners displayed appreciated patience. None complained.

So what did participants say?

Lisa Taylor of Glad Park: "Please ask us back."

Ingrid Legros of Ballantrae: "Next year, absolutely, — put us on your list."

Diane Marlatt of Stouffville Secondary: "To have Colton (Carrick), so deservedly honoured, made the evening extra special. "We're very proud."

The accolades didn't end

there.

Said Madison, Grade 3 of Glad Park: "It was exciting. Never have I sung before so large a crowd."

And Hanna, Grade 7 of Whitchurch Highlands: "To play, (tenor sax), in front of such a huge audience meant a lot to me."

And Jennifer, Grade 8 of Harry Bowes: "It was absolutely fantastic."

A concert of this kind has two main objectives. First, it showcases student talent, vocal, instrumental and drama, from kindergarten through Grade 12.

And second, it provides much-needed funding for hard-pressed school music programs.

On Nov. 18, both aims were achieved.

The rafters rang to the sound of beautiful music.

Collection containers resounded to the tune of \$2,200.00

On this night, all was right with Stouffville's world.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Students and teachers enter Stouffville District Secondary School during the opening of the 19th annual Student Music Scholarship Concert Friday.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.




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