

They're off to see the Wizard



YDAPA's latest extravaganza, *The Wizard of Oz*, takes place at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church April 12 and 13 at 7 p.m., and April 14 at 11 a.m. Getting ready for the journey to the Emerald City are Shannon O'Reilly, Dave O'Reilly, Sarah Amelard, Meghan Keeley, John Romaniuk and Brenda Amelard, with Cam Peglar, sitting in front, as the Cowardly Lion.

**COMMEMORATING
... a courageous uprising**

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

Last October, the Hungarian community commemorated the 50th anniversary of their heroic uprising against communist rule.

After the defeat of the revolution, almost 40,000 refugees found a new home in Canada and some of those refugees or their children settled in the Stouffville area. On Feb. 10, many local residents were in attendance at the 50th anniversary Helicon Ball in Toronto, an annual celebration of the rich history, traditions and culture of Hungary and a fundraiser for education programs in Toronto. These programs include Hungarian

secondary school credit courses, adult language classes, Helicon scholarships at the University of Toronto and Hungarian language proficiency exams.

Among local residents in attendance at the ball were long-time patrons Ward 3 councillor Clyde Smith and his wife, Margie Telegdi Smith, who is of Hungarian origin, along with Marta Tomory, Eva Tomory, Ugray Tamas, Katalin Dekany and Ildiko Ugray-Hary. Julie Spinelli, chair of the 50th anniversary ball committee, explained that the Helicon Society was formed in 1952 by Hungarian immigrants to help foster appreciation of their culture, traditions and language.

"Another aim was to help ease the arrival of new immigrants to Canada," she said. "With the outbreak of the 1956 revolution and subsequent influx of new immigrants, the society helped provide a sense of belonging to these new arrivals." The Helicon Ball was started by a large and active contingent of young society members who wanted to celebrate their heritage in a way that was no longer allowed under the communist regime.

"Their drive, hard work and determination laid the foundation for the Helicon Ball and it is because of their efforts we were able to celebrate our 50th anniversary this past February," said Ms Spinelli. "While the ball is now run mostly by second and third generation Hungarians, we honour the traditions we have inherited and I hope that we can continue to enjoy this wonderful event for many more years to come."



Residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville's Hungarian community were among those in attendance at the 50th anniversary Helicon Ball in Toronto on Feb. 10. A group of them met at Eva Tomory's Stouffville home in March to talk about the ball and share memories of their flight from Hungary and early impressions of Canada. Some of their reminiscences will appear in the May issue of the Stouffville Free Press. Back row, left to right: Marta Tomory, Eva Tomory, Ugray Tamas, Margie Telegdi Smith. Front row: Katalin Dekany, Julie Spinelli and Ildiko Ugray-Hary.



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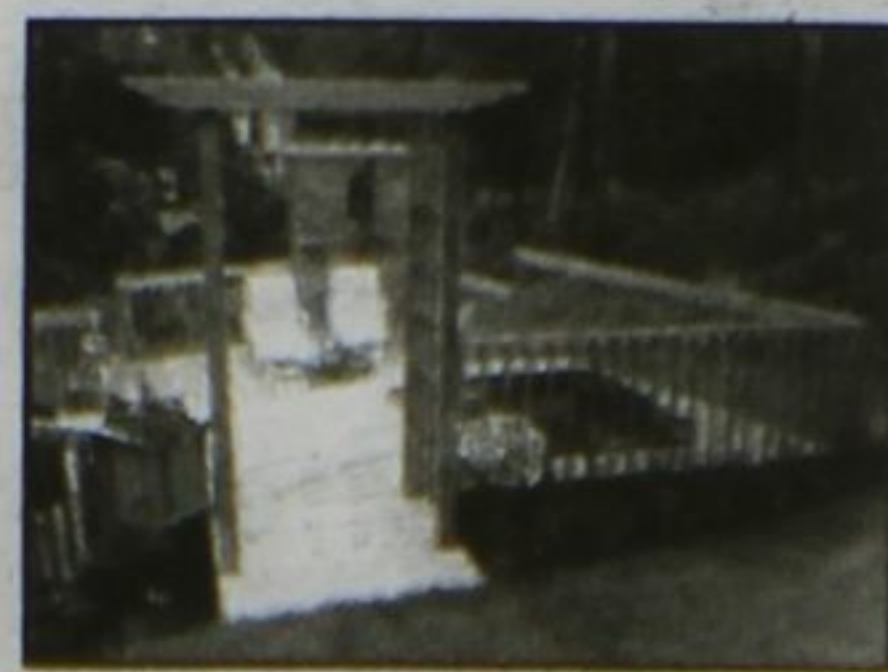
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