

Solid Gold

Music Mania celebrates 50 years

In the fall of 1959, a group of creative individuals from Stouffville United Church Couples Club decided to pool their talents and put on a show to entertain the community and raise funds for special causes.

After weeks of writing, rehearsing, sewing costumes and painting sets, *Minstrel Mania 60* made its successful debut on April 29, 1960. By 1963, the show's format had been revamped to reflect the changing times and *Music Mania* had become an unmissable event for local families. As it evolved, the show's goals remained constant to give people an enjoyable outlet for their creative talents, to provide great family entertainment and to support community causes, goals which have endured to this day.

Over the years, *Music Mania* has donated \$84,000 to 91 individuals, groups and community agencies. It also offers an annual scholarship to a Stouffville District Secondary School

student who continues his or her post-secondary education in the performing arts.

The only criteria for getting involved are a Whitchurch Stouffville address, a sense of commitment, boundless enthusiasm and the desire to have fun. "A spot can always be found to fit a person's talents in music, dance and skits or behind the scenes in stage crew, tech, sewing or painting sets," said Heather Andrews who, with her husband, Reid, has been involved in the show for 28 years. "Currently we have second and third generations performing together."

Heather's involvement in *Music Mania* has included singing in the chorus, creating sets, making costumes and handling publicity. "This has been a wonderful way to meet so many people and form deep friendships," she said.

"*Music Mania* is truly a 'family' and is always there when help or support is needed. There is no greater place to

spend the time with so much reward attached."

Solid Gold is the title of this year's show, which comprises a nostalgic journey into past productions with a contemporary twist. Alumni from the cast and crew will be on hand to help celebrate half a century of top-notch community entertainment in song, dance and skits. "*Music Mania* is now the longest currently running show of its kind in Ontario," said Heather.

Solid Gold performances take place at Stouffville District Secondary School on April 29, 30 and May 1 at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee at 2 p.m. on May 1. Tickets are available from Pharmasave, Reid's Antiques, The Hearty Artichoke, M2M Meat Shops, Fame International Salon and Spa, Great Clips and Card's Appliances. For more information visit www.maniashow.ca



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KEEPING UP WITH CHANGING TIMES

By Anne Houle

The past year has seen many changes for the better at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

We've upgraded our computer system and brought in a new PC reservation program and print program to help make sure everyone gets equal computer time. Most recently, we have revamped our website. We are also going to have a permanent self checkout unit to alleviate your wait time. Less obvious changes include offering titles for our increasingly diverse community. We have begun building a collection of Chinese books for both adults and children, and sometime this year we will receive a selection of Tamil books for children. As our community changes, so we change to meet your needs.

If you would like to add to your personal collection of books, visit our annual spring book sale, which will be held April 14 to 18. Check www.whitchurch-library.on.ca for specific times.

The final change was our March Break program lineup. Always bringing Stouffville quality entertainment, our jungle theme had us swinging through the trees. This year's offerings included Cindy Cook from Polka Dot Door, Whimz Animals, Jim Dalling presenting Loki's Dream, Mad Science and Che-Mystery, Silly Miss Tilly and her outer space magic, and movies including *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* and *Where the Wild Things Are*. The Monday to Friday programs were financially supported by the Stouffville Lions Club.

We ended the week with our first Saturday family program, with Motus O performing *Circus Terrifico* which we presented in partnership with 19 on the Park.

As you can see, 2010 has begun with many changes and there are more to come.

Anne Houle is co-ordinator of children and youth services at Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

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