



Students from the York-Durham Academy of the Performing Arts will be featured in a *Family Christmas Concert* Dec. 13 at the Country Day School in King City. For tickets and information call 905-640-0823.

York Durham Academy of Performing Arts growing by leaps and bounds

By Jani Quarles
Special to Stouffville This Month

Its website describes the York Durham Academy of the Performing Arts as "a registered non-profit organization committed to the development of performing arts' activities for young people."

The focus is on children and young people aged 6 to 25 and my 10-year-old daughter, who is a YDAPA member, has a message

for parents of aspiring performers, "Just tell them it's loads of fun for their children." Young dancers, singers, actors and musicians travel from as far away as Queensville for weekly rehearsals in Stouffville because they love being involved.

Director Wayne Hill's 2003 productions of *Oliver* and *The Wizard of Oz* were so successful that academy membership has grown from 100 to 150 in

one year. Two new options are now available: the Children's Choir and the Concert Band, and both will perform several concerts in the coming year. The choir and soloists will sing at Stouffville's Festival of Lights on Dec. 5 at the Clock Tower, and can also be booked for company events.

On Dec. 13, YDAPA will perform in a *Family Christmas Concert* at the Country Day School in King City, and tickets are available by calling 905-640-0823. Sponsorships for individual productions are available and will help to support local children interested in the arts.

YDAPA believes in quality productions and wants to enrich young people's lives with the knowledge that hard work produces incredible results. As membership has grown, so has the need to produce more shows, and four musicals are planned for the first half of 2004 at the Vaughan City Playhouse.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown and *A Chorus Line* are featured in January, with an April production of *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, followed by a high-flying version of *Peter Pan* at the end of May. More details are available by visiting the YDAPA website at www.ydapa.com.

Anything worth doing usually takes much time and effort, and in most cases, money. If you would like to contribute to this most worthy of causes please contact Gord Brown at gord@ydapa.com.

Jack Chambers one of town's characters

One of the great characters of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Jack Chambers, died Nov. 11 shortly after being diagnosed with cancer.

Mr. Chambers and his wife, Mary, who retired to the Minden area early in the 1990s, came to Stouffville in 1969, and owned and managed the downtown IGA store here for more than 20 years. "He and Graydon Card got the Chamber of Commerce going in Stouffville and he helped out with baseball teams in town. He was very much involved in the community," said Mrs. Chambers.

He became something of a legend when he, Mr. Card and Jim Newton volunteered to cut down a mature tree which had been donated to the town for use in the annual Christmas display downtown. Alas, in their enthusiasm to get the job done, they cut down the neighbour's tree by mistake.

Luckily the neighbour, Wayne Nugent, managed to see the funny side and the case of the wrong tree was a recurring theme in the following year's Music Mania. To make amends, Chamber president Ged Stonehouse came up with the idea of arranging a fundraiser, aptly entitled the Woodchoppers' Ball, to pay for landscaping on Mr. Nugent's property, and all three lumberjacks showed up in their tuxedos.

"The last time I ever saw Jack was seven or eight years ago at a local cut your own Christmas tree farm," recalled Bruce Stapley. "He told me it was the first time he'd had the guts to show up at a place like this since the big tree disaster."

Mr. Chambers will be remembered for his generosity, sense of humour and thoughtfulness towards his customers, as well as his enthusiastic efforts to promote the downtown area. He leaves his wife, Mary, children Steven, Julia and Donna and five grandchildren.

THE Bid & Bop for Luke

NOVEMBER 7, 2003



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and our wonderful volunteers who contributed to making the event a great success

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