

Makin' Magic!

**DARYL MARTIN-BREAULT
REPORTER**

On Friday night, St. Martin's Catholic School was host to the self-proclaimed 'Stompin' Tom Connors of magic', veteran magician John Kaplan, who dazzled the crowd of about 200 kids and parents for nearly 90 minutes in a humorous take on the art of magic. Makin Magic is Kaplan's latest show, combining card tricks, million dollar bills, numerous

guests from the audience, corny jokes and even a mind reading orange named Caesar to wow his audience.

The St. Martin's School Advisory Council (SAC) organized the event to help raise money for The Breakfast Club, a local organization that provides breakfast and juice for school children. The committee stated goal was \$5000 with all proceeds to be split between the Club

and St. Martin's school. Remax supplied popcorn and pop for the evening along with providing special guest Kody Kuchik, a local real estate agent. "No one told me about it," lamented Kuchik moments after his big debut. "I had to read about it in the paper." Kuchik was 'volunteered' by his office mates to be sawed in half along with Mayor Richard Coleman. "Hurts." Kuchik replied when asked about his experience, "I'm back in one piece so it's all good." One audience favourite was "The Floating Student", where a young girl was levitated into the air while lying on a surfboard and the trick card deck available at the concession stand seemed to be very popular with the students.

Unfortunately, Kaplan and his crew suffered some major transportation issues leading up to Friday's show which left

the entertainers stranded in Peabrock and forced the cancellation of Kaplan's Sedgwick appearance as



well as the scheduled 4:00pm show here in town. Mayor Coleman was set to star in the matinee, also to be sawed in half, but due to the cancellation and schedule conflicts he was unable to attend the later event. Apparently, the problems started for Kaplan when a gas station attendant filled the truck carrying the magician's set and props with regular

gasoline instead of diesel fuel. The loss of the 4 o'clock show stunted organizers expectations for the night. "The kids had fun tonight, that makes it a success," an exhausted Marcia Spaniers said after the show. Spaniers, the Student Advisory Council Secretary, and Tracy Griffin,

President of the SAC, as well as the multitude of volunteers from the St. Martin's Parents Committee are to be commended for their incredible display of patience and hard work, as they say in show business: The show must go on! and without these people's efforts, this show would not have taken place. Kaplan's set takes nearly 4 hours to set up on a good day and they were already behind schedule with the vehicle problems. Between Kaplan's crew, the volunteers and even some very helpful kids, the team managed to have the show ready in an incredible hour and a half.

This is Kaplan's 29th annual tour as part of

'Fundraising Magic', Kaplan's fundraising organization. Kaplan performs at fundraisers for schools and community groups and has helped raise thousands of dollars for communities all over Canada. The magician just celebrated his 50th birthday on April 15th and has been doing shows since he was 9. Originally from Calgary, Kaplan currently lives in Vancouver and more recently has worked closer to home. His crew includes two lovely assistants, Rachele and Gabriella, along with Greg, who handles lights and sounds. Makin' Magic is a compilation of highlights from Kaplan's 3 decades of performing and includes a tribute to Harry Houdini and a slight of "The Masked Magician", whose claim to fame is exposing trade secrets on television, a big no-no in the industry.

Despite the bad luck suffered throughout the day and the cancellation of one show, organizers and performers pulled off an excellent show. St. Martin's is very lucky to have such incredible volunteers, very much was accomplished by the very few that night.

Certainly, it was a night of illusion and wonder by all.



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