

Magic show makes funds appear for playground

BY VICTORIA PATERSON
STAFF REPORTER

The magic show held at the Lou Soppit Community Centre on May 11 helped conjure up approximately \$7,000 towards the barrier-free playground at Ecole Rocky.

Magician John Kaplan performed two rounds of his show *Abacadazzle* to about 750 total according to Cheryl Goodwin, a member of the Ecole Rocky playground committee. There were 1,000 seats available between the two shows.

"The show went really well," Goodwin said. She said Kaplan's performance garnered a lot of positive feedback, especially for two of the main tricks performed. One featured a celebrity member of the audience getting acupuncture on-stage. Pledges were taken to put local luminaries in

the spotlight as a potential victim.

The other trick which got a great reaction was Kaplan's finale. It was his

'This community never ceases to amaze me.'

Cheryl Goodwin
Playground committee

version of famous magician Harry Houdini's *Metamorphosis* trick which involves escaping from a padlocked trunk.

Kaplan's version of the trick involved putting one of his dancers inside a bag inside a padlocked trunk. Kaplan then managed to get himself inside the trunk and bag while the dancer re-appeared in his place on top of the trunk. When Kaplan was released from the trunk and bag he had an ad-

ditional surprise – he was wearing a Team Canada hockey jersey he had not had on before.

Goodwin said the event raised approximately \$7,000 between the tickets, raffle, pledges and concession sales. Kaplan is a professional magician who does many of his shows for fundraising purposes.

"He did very well. He was just a great gentleman to work with," Goodwin said. She added Kaplan was very helpful in guiding the committee through what to do to host the show.

The magic shows attracted more of an audience than just families from Ecole Rocky. Goodwin said a "huge assortment" of people came out to see Kaplan perform.

"This community never ceases to amaze me," Goodwin said of the efforts and money put forth.



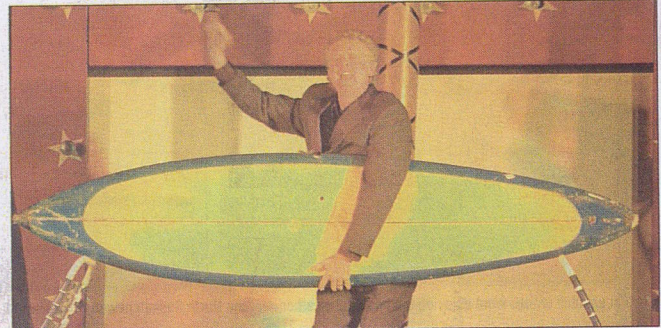
Magician John Kaplan twisted one of his assistants in unusual ways during one of the magic shows held at the Lou Soppit Community Centre on May 11. VICTORIA PATERSON | THE MOUNTAINEER



An audience volunteer got a chance to be levitated on a surfboard by magician John Kaplan during one of the magic shows held at the Lou Soppit Community Centre on May 11. VICTORIA PATERSON | THE MOUNTAINEER



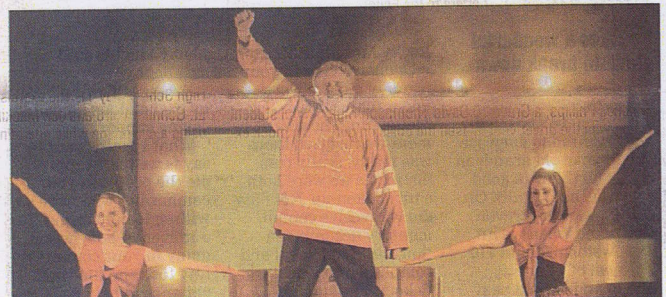
Grim reapers rolled out the acupuncture device that was to be used on a local celebrity during one of the magic shows held at the Lou Soppit Community Centre on May 11. VICTORIA PATERSON | THE MOUNTAINEER



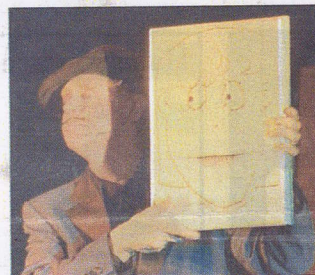
Illusionist John Kaplan moves to some surfer tunes. DEREK WITTEN | THE MOUNTAINEER



Bobbie-Jo Douglas on the verge of being "acupuncture." DEREK WITTEN | THE MOUNTAINEER



The illusionist emerges from the show's grand finale, the "Metamorphosis." The stunt, which was modelled off a Houdini original, had Kaplan heavily padlocked into a box, only to emerge seconds later with no outside help, and having somehow snuck on a Team Canada jersey. DEREK WITTEN | THE MOUNTAINEER



Magician John Kaplan sang a duet with a doodle on a white board during one of the magic shows held at the Lou Soppit Community



Kaplan congratulates a volunteer after she was successfully levitated five feet into the air on a



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