

THORNTON NEWS

by Cathie Miller

Wow, the time sure does fly. Can you believe that it is only a month to Christmas? With that in mind, here are some of the upcoming Christmas events in our area.

On Saturday, December 2nd, many of our youth will be participating in the Cookstown Santa Claus parade featuring the Cookstown Public School's float, Positive Step Dance Academy's dancers and the many children's and youth groups. The parade leaves the Foodland parking lot at 1 p.m. and heads east to the fair grounds. Santa will be holding a meet and greet following the parade at the Cookstown Fire hall.

If standing in the cold watching a parade isn't your thing you can take your children ages 3 to 6 to the Thornton Arena for the Dear Santa Party on December 2nd. The cost is \$5 per child and it will be held from 1:15 until 3:45p.m. Crafts will be supplied so that everyone can make the bestest, most decorated letter to Santa and they will also be decorating cookies to practice up for the big night.

The Christmas in the Village/Light Up Night will be held at the Thornton Creek Gazebo on Sunday evening December 3rd starting at 6 p.m. Bring the kids to help count down to the lighting of the trees and enjoy some hot

chocolate and treats while visiting with neighbours and friends. Of course Santa will be there to meet with all the children. Everyone is welcome to enjoy this Thornton tradition.

The Christmas Eve Service will be held at Trinity United Church starting at 6:30 p.m., December 24th. It is always a beautiful service and everyone is welcome to attend. The choir at Trinity is looking for some new members for the Christmas season. They meet after the service every Sunday. Call Pat at 424-9433 or the Church office at 458-9701 for more information.

The 36th Annual Thornton Community Shoot will be held Saturday, December 2 starting at 10 a.m. The shoot will be held at the farm of Steve McCabe at 6831 County Road 27, just south of Thornton. Its \$3 per shot using 12 gauge shotguns only. Pie slices are being sold at local businesses for just \$2 per slice. Stop in at the library, K&M Repairs, Joe & Paul's, or the Ice Cream Parlour to buy yours, you could win your Christmas turkey, a ham or peameal bacon. For more information call Mike Webb at 458-9279.

There will be a Mystery Dance at the Ivy Orange Hall this coming Saturday, November 25 starting at 8 p.m. It will feature a DJ, buffet and door prizes for just \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. Contact Chris Ayers at 424-5592 for more information.

Need something for the kids to do over the Christmas Break. Essa Parks and Recreation will be holding "Kids

Wacky Winter Week" at the Thornton Arena from January 2 to 5. The cost is just \$15 per day per child and \$20 per day for bus trip days. The bus trip days are Wednesday with a trip to Base Borden for bowling and on Thursday they'll go to Thornhill for the "Wonderful World of Circus." Fun activities will be held at the arena on the Tuesday and Friday such as skating, crafts, crazy bingo and a movie. Children ages 5 to 12 are welcome.

The next Ontario Early Years date at the library will be December 12 starting at 10 a.m. The theme will be clap your hands and the children will participate in fun activities including songs, crafts, stories and more. This is a free event but you are asked to register at the library or by calling 458-2549.

During Canada Library Month in October, the library kept track of all the print items which were borrowed during the month with book links. A total of 4,241 items were circulated and each represented 1 km in distance. It was calculated that we read west to the Clearbrook Public Library in Abbotsford, B.C., north to the Ikiarjuk Public Library in Arctic Bay, Nunavut and east to A. C. Hunter Public Library in St. John's, Newfoundland.

If you have any news, meetings, weddings, anniversaries or special occasions, I'd be happy to write about them. You can email me at thorntonnews@rogers.com or by telephone at 458-0869, or drop it off at 25 Robert Street. Bye for now....

Author Scott Griffin visits Lakeshore Library

by Michelle Minnoch

The Innisfil Library, Lakeshore Branch, was treated to a visit by author Scott Griffin on Wednesday night, writer of My Heart is Africa.

In 1996, Griffin, a successful businessman and certified pilot, decided to fly his Cessna 180 to join the Flying Doctors Service of East Africa, where he spent two and a half years.

"It's a flying adventure," Griffin said of his book. "At the age of 65 I wanted to try something different, away from the corporate world."

Griffin flew to Africa to work with the Flying Doctor Service, which is an African organization that flies doctors to remote areas of the continent to provide medical assistance. The novel is a two year memoir of his time spent flying and working in Africa.

"All of us would like to go to a different country and experience a different culture," he said. "If you seize the opportunity do it, it is a rewarding experience."

His journey to and within the African continent included facing storms, fuel shortages, mechanical problems and his sense of isolation in a world unknown to him. Flying over jungles, deserts and

mountains Griffin spent time helping the doctors and meeting an array of wonderful people. Griffin said he was asked by many why he chose to fly to Africa, including his 95 year old mother.

"I have a belief and a fascination with the concept of risk," he said. Griffin said we live in a society that is risk immerse, but he said he was speaking of a risk that is calculated.

"Calculated risk allows us to make intellectual, spiritual and emotional risks that are worth taking."

He said risk has a twin, and that is faith. Griffin said while many could conclude it is faith in God and faith in ones self, it is "closer to instinct." He said it did not matter how faith turns out, but there is always an element of hope. "And as you know, hope springs eternal."

He told his audience of one of the original Flying Doctors, who was an 80 year old woman who traveled to many parts of the continent to administer medical aid. He said after a long day of helping people with medical aid, the people give their thanks in the best and only way they could; in a dance and a song.

"It's moving because it is

all the Africans have to offer."

Griffin said that is what he means when he speaks of the humanity of Africa.

Speaking of the devastation facing the continent today, he said we all have a moral obligation to help Africa. He asked why Africa is incapable in pulling itself up by its bootstraps.

"There are 52 countries in Africa with over 1000 different languages," he said. He spoke of the Congo losing over 10 million people due to slavery and the current crisis of the continent being ravaged by AIDS.

"It seems to have the mark of Cain on it."

Speaking about aid heading to the continent and the role of the United Nations, Griffin said the "whole business of aid is really complicated because everybody's intentions are good." Griffin said there are a lot of North American agencies that go to Africa and bring their baggage with them, emotional and spiritual.

"Survival is the key," he said of the African people, not the advancement of their society.

"When we bring our beliefs in and try to impose

them on their society, it's a 180 degree difference." Griffin said the value of the Flying Doctors is that the organization is African based.

In two years, Griffin flew 2300 miles and circulated

the African continent.

Scott Griffin is the owner of The House of Anansi Press and Chairman and Trustee of the Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry and Chancellor of Bishops University. He also is on the

AMREF International Board which is based in Nairobi, Kenya. All royalties from the sale of the book will be donated to the AMREF Flying Doctors Service.

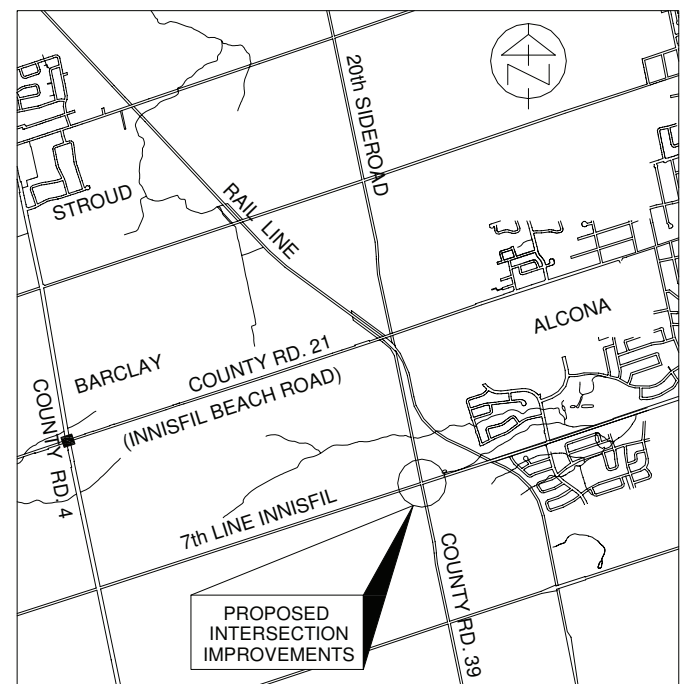
COUNTY OF SIMCOE Notice of Class Environmental Assessment Intersection Improvements At County Road 39 and the 7th Line of Innisfil Located in the Town of Innisfil

Public Comment Invited

The County of Simcoe is undertaking a study to investigate intersection improvements at County Road 39 and the 7th Line of Innisfil in the Town of Innisfil

The proposed improvements under consideration will include for urbanization of the intersection, addition of auxiliary turning lanes on all approaches and replacement or extension of culverts and associated drainage works within the limits of the project. Also proposed is the installation of traffic control signals and associated illumination. The Class EA is being prepared in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, June 2000.

If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding the proposed intersection improvements or you wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive project information please contact the County of Simcoe or the Consultant carrying out the study on behalf of the County. We respectfully request your response by **December 8th, 2006**



This notice issued November 20th, 2006.

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Att: James E. Hunter, M.B.A., P.Eng.
Transportation Construction Manager

Consulting Engineers
Ainley and Associates Ltd.
280 Pretty River Parkway
Collingwood, Ontario, L9Y4J5
Phone (705) 445-3451
Fax (705) 445-0968
Att: Tom Nollert, C.E.T.
Senior Technologist

Flu shot clinics

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has arranged free flu vaccine clinics at the following dates and locations. For more information on influenza and immunization, check the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Nov. 23, 3-8 p.m., Health Unit Office - Cookstown, 2-25 King St. S.

Nov. 29, 1-8 p.m., Bradford Parks & Rec. Arena, 125 Simcoe Rd.
Nov. 30, 3-8 p.m. Health Unit Office - Cookstown, 2-25 King St. S.

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