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THORNTON NEWS

by Cathie Miller

Be sure to stop in at the Barrie Thornton Old Time Fiddlers Night to hear some festive Christmas tunes, tomorrow, December 14 at the Lions Hall. Its just \$3 per adult and children are free. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the music starts at 7 p.m. sharp. All fiddlers, singers, callers, dancers and listeners are welcome. Call Cec Denney for more information at 458-9996.

Do you have your tree yet? Stop by the Thornton Lions lot on Barrie Street to pick up one and support a good cause at the same time. We got a lovely tree from them last week. There will be someone manning the lot week days from about noon to about 8 or 9 p.m. and all day Saturday and Sunday starting at 9 a.m. until evening. They sell the best trees around and the funds raised go to good causes that benefit us all.

The Thornton Firefighters and Santa will be touring the

village collecting donations for the food bank and spreading Christmas Cheer this coming Saturday, December 16. Listen for the sirens coming down a street near you.

On December 20th, dress the kids up in their pj's and stocking caps; then bring them and their favourite bedtime buddy to the Thornton Library for a special reading of 'The Night Before Christmas.' This special Christmas event is free for the whole family and no registration is required. It runs from 7 to 8 p.m. and will be filled with fun, stories and surprises for everyone.

Both branches of the Essa Public Library will be accepting new unwrapped toys for the Barrie & District Christmas Cheer campaign. Toys will be accepted until December 15th.

Also at the library until December 16 your kids can pick up a "Letter to Santa" form, fill in all their wishes and return it to the library. Santa and his elves will send a letter back to every child who returns their letter before the deadline. Don't forget your full name address so he doesn't send his reply back to the wrong person.

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.

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. To register call the Park and Recreation staff at 424-9770.

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...

Helping out the United Way

The Kumi Canada Corporation Associates have successfully raised \$13,800 for the United Way of Great Simcoe County's annual campaign.

This gift is a 35% increase over last year's contribution made by the Associates.

In 2005, funds raised from United Way of Greater Simcoe County's campaign touched the lives of over 150,000 people in our community, including:

Hundreds of men and

women suffering from mental illness and addictions including youth at risk who received support from the David Busby Street Centre

Homeless women and men with intellectual disabilities who received housing support through Simcoe Community Services

Individuals, families and communities impacted by disasters including fires, floods, gas leaks and weather related occurrences who receive assistance with the basic needs of food, clothing

and shelter through the Canadian Red Cross Society

Patients requiring palliative care and families needing bereavement support from their loss of loved to ones to cancer or other terminal illness through Hospice Simcoe

One gift provides support to over 40 local programs and services, and touches the lives of one in three people in Greater Simcoe County through 22 agencies.

This year, United Way of Greater Simcoe County has

set an aggressive campaign goal of \$1.35 million which represents a 10% increase over last year.



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