

Wizard of Oz at Blackhorse

Some members of the Blackhorse Village Players are very busy this holiday season preparing to mount their latest Children's Holiday Production "The Wizard of Oz".

Even though this play is a condensed, non-musical version, it is still hosted by everyone's favourite characters and promises plenty of audience participation to delight the young and the young at heart.

When the play opens the audience finds their three unlikely heroes, the Scarecrow (played by Lynn Khreli), the Tin Man (Sylvio Couture), and the Cowardly Lion (John Milne) in a forest where they had just been attacked by "mean magical trees" while on their way to rescue Dorothy (Jade Poirier) from the castle of the Wicked Witch of the West (Chandra Mulder). When the trio fails to get help from the Good Fairy (Michelle

Lanoue), they decide to recruit some unsuspecting Munchkins to help them as they take the audience along on their journey to save Dorothy and find the great Wizard of Oz.

Director Cheryl Phillips, who also headed up last year's holiday production Patchwork states, "compared to the full length plays Blackhorse is known for, the children's shows seem small on the scale, but the amount of heart and time put in to them is huge! We have a total of eight members pulling this all together, their enthusiasm is enormous! Many of the costumes and props were made by the actors themselves. They have done a fantastic job. I couldn't be more pleased. A few final touches and we'll be ready for the kids".

Another interesting fact is that Blackhorse had presented this play 26 years ago. The theatre group is not in

the habit of repeating shows, but plenty of time has gone by, and the Wizard of Oz is a classic story. The only character to reprise his role is John Milne, as the Cowardly Lion. John, (who was recently awarded a "lifetime membership" for 30+ years of involvement) jokes that it was a lot easier to memorize his lines back then.

To add to the holiday fun, children will have an opportunity to meet the cast and have their pictures taken with their favourite character(s).

Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras. There will also be a special draw for the adults. All proceeds from this event will go toward the theatre's technical fund for upgrades to the lighting and sound systems.

Performance dates are Saturday Jan. 6th and Sunday Jan. 7th only, with two performances each day at 1 and 3 p.m. You may

reserve seats in advance by calling the box office at 905-880-5002.

Admission is \$5 per child. Parents/guardians are required to bring a non-perishable food item equivalent to \$5. In lieu of no food a \$7 admission fee will apply to each adult. There will be no assigned seating. Rush seating only.

The members of the Blackhorse Village Players would like to take this opportunity to express warm wishes to our patrons and their families this holiday season. We thank you for continuing to support community theatre.

Overnight parking

Street parking overnight is prohibited between 3am to 6am from November 1 until May 1.

Is the flu vaccine effective?

One of the most frequently heard question at Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit flu clinics is: does the vaccine really work?

The answer is a simple yes.

The vaccine works because of a process that started almost a year earlier, at locations around the world. A surveillance program operated by 115 international health labs monitors the strains of influenza that have been emerging.

From that information, the World Health Organization — a branch of the United Nations — recommends a vaccine based on three prevalent strains of the flu.

This process has been very successful.

This year, the few cases of influenza that have been laboratory confirmed in Canada are the same strains that have been included in the vaccine.

Flu vaccines have been 70 to 90% effective against the flu — and among those who catch the flu it may reduce both the severity of the illness and the risk of hospitalization.

It is up to 95 per cent effective at preventing death.

It makes sense to get the flu shot. You not only protect yourself, you protect everyone around you.

For more information about flu vaccine clinics near you, check the website of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org. Or call Your Health Connection at 721-7520 or 18877-721-7520 from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

A directory of what is happening in your community

The community event calendar is provided as a free public service to non-profit organizations to announce upcoming events. Deadlines are no later than Monday for that week's issue to COMMUNITY EVENTS, P.O. Box 310, Beeton, Ontario L0G 1A0. Submissions by mail, fax or e-mail and will not be received by telephone.

ISSUES & INTERESTS

The York-Simcoe Naturalists is a young club looking for new members. Contact: Cathryn Rees at 905-775-7021, e-mail: wilcor@sympatico.ca.

South Simcoe Community Information Centre "CONTACT" at 146 Victoria St. W. Alliston. Call (705) 435-4900, Fax 705-435-1106. Website: www.csolve.net/contact, or Email: contact@focusdc.on.ca.
Be a face in the fight against cancer The Innisfil Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society needs volunteers. Their involvement enables the Canadian Cancer Society to fund cancer research, provide information, services and to support people living with cancer. Call: 436-1060 or 726-8032.

The Canadian Mental Health Association of Barrie-Simcoe supports the development and continuation of self-help groups as a viable community resource for individuals experiencing difficulties. Self-Help groups can provide; support and understanding through difficult times; an opportunity to meet with others who have experienced similar difficulties; information and education; a safe and comfortable environment; suggestions regarding coping strategies that help to get through difficult times.

For further information contact the Canadian Mental Health Association, Barrie-Simcoe Branch at 705-726-5033 or 1-800-461-4319.

MONDAYS

Friends of the Innisfil Library, Stroud Branch, meetings are held

the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

Gilford and District Horticultural Society meets second Monday of the month from March to November at Churchill Community Centre. New members are always welcome. Call Judith Rogers at 431-9278 or Kathy Barraclough at (905)853-8785 for more info.

AI-Anon meetings take place every Monday at Innisfil Community Church at 8:00 p.m. If you have a problem with someone else's drink, come and join the discussion group.

TUESDAYS

Job Search Assistance, help with job search, resumes, interview tips, job bank internet assistance at the Thornton Library 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and the Alcona Library from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Services provided at no charge by The Employment Outreach Team call Marilee or Kathy at (705) 728-0897 for more information. This initiative is funded by the government of Canada.

Cookstown Computer Club drop-in program for elementary students, 4 to 5 p.m. at the library.
T.O.P.S. (Take off Pounds Sensibly) from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Library, Robert St., Thornton. For information call 739-9226.

Stroud Seniors invite persons 55+ to join them for an afternoon of bid and progressive euchre, refreshments and companionship. 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall, Painswick. Call 436-1628.

St Paul's Anglican Church, located on the corner of Mapleview and Yonge Street, has two new youth and young adult programs. From 6:30 - 8:00 pm will be informal musical jamming sessions for anyone with a voice or instrument. If you are learning to play an instrument or like to sing and would enjoy having some fun and social time with similar minded people, come and join us. For more information, please call (705) 722-7755.

St. Paul's Church, Innisfil (corner of Mapleview and Yonge Street), Playgroup for tots, moms, dads,

caregivers, and grandparents from 9:30-11:30 am. Come for a social time, friendship, play and snacks. For information, call (705) 431-1694.

The Beta Classes will be held at the Innisfil Community Church starting January 9th at 1pm. Beta is a life changing program and the twelve week course will enable you to live free from fear, stress anxiety and the pain of past hurts and traumas. This program is offered at the Church from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. For more information, call Sherri McLaughlin at (705) 436-1611.

WEDNESDAYS

Friends of the Innisfil Library, Lakeshore Branch, meet the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. New members are most welcome.

Euchre, bid euchre, Scrabble and cribbage is played at Alcona Seniors club every Wednesday at 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the ABC Hall on the 25th Sideroad below Innisfil Beach Rd. Refreshments and fun days. Bring a bag lunch.

Euchre every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30, Newton Robinson United Church in aid of Gwen Taylor Library. Refreshments.

Weight Loss Group. The Alcona Chapter of TOPS meets at 7:15 at Goodfellow Public School. Call Joan Davies at 436-3197 after 6 and on weekends.

Job Search Assistance, help with job search, resumes, interview tips, job bank internet assistance. On Wednesdays, the mornings are alternated between the Churchill and the Cookstown Libraries from 10:00 a.m. to noon., and every Wednesday afternoon at the Stroud Branch from 1:30 - 3:30. Services provided at no charge by The Employment Outreach Team Please call marilee or Kathy at (705) 728-0897. This initiative is funded by the government of Canada.

Euchre at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Churchill is held every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the parish

hall. Please call Reg at 705-456-6801 for information.

The Cookstown Co-Operative Playgroup is at St. John's Anglican Church in Cookstown for the winter. We will be having a special winter program that will include outings, Story Time with Sue the Librarian, visits from the Ontario Early Years representative and much more. All pre-school children and their care-givers are welcome. The hours will be the same, 9:30 to 12:30 every Wednesday & Thursday morning. For more information please call Karla at 905 778-1507 or Bryan at 458-8468. See you there!!

THURSDAYS

Euchre - Progressive and Bid, every Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion - 1017 Robinson, Bell Ewart 705-436-1144, Betty.

Register for Book Book a six week afterschool program for ages 6 and up from 5-6 p.m. Call Innisfil Public Library, Cookstown Branch at 458-1273.

Job Search Assistance, help with job search, resumes, interview tips, job bank internet assistance at the Alcona Library from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Please call Marilee or Kathy at (705) 728-0897. Services provided at no charge by The Employment Outreach Team 728-3757, this initiative is funded by the government of Canada.

Barrie Chapter of Schizophrenia Society of Ontario family support group meets the last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Barrie-Simcoe Building, 39 High St., Barrie. For info contact 726-5033.

Painswick Horticultural Society meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. New members welcome. For info call Linda Lewer at 436-3908.

The Parish of Churchill and Cookstown youth group meets every Thursday from 6:30 to 8 on alternate weeks at both St. Peter's in Churchill and St. John's in

Cookstown. The youth leader is Pam Gervais. If you need information on joining the youth group, please call the Parish office at 705-458-1801.

St Paul's Anglican Church, located on the corner of Mapleview and Yonge Street, has two new youth and young adult programs. From 6:30 - 8:00 pm we are beginning a study comparing the gospels and learning how and why they developed. For more information, call (705) 722-7755.

FRIDAYS

The Cookstown United Church Community Youth Group will begin meeting as of October 20th. They will be meeting weekly from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Cookstown United Church on 37 Queen Street. Come for crafts, games, movies, fellowship and fun! All are welcome. For more information, call (705) 458-9701.

SATURDAYS

Barrie Farmers' Market, outside and inside Barrie City Hall. From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fresh produce and fruit in season. For info please call 739-4204.

SUNDAYS

Innisfil Pipes & Drums meet for practice at the Legion in Bell Ewart, 1017 Robinson St. at 1 p.m. Always looking for new members. Phone Betty 436-1144

Cookstown United Church welcomes all young people from preschool to grade 8 to join in Sunday school at 11am. Sunday's are cool at Cookstown UC, so come and join as we grow in faith and have fun. New this year - join us in making scrapbooks celebrating God's gifts in our lives. For more information, please call Rev. Heather or Kieran Power at (705) 458-9701.

Overeaters Anonymus meets at the Mapleview Community Church at 7pm. Do you eat when you are not hungry? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? It's not what you eat, it's what's eating you! For more information, call Anne at

(705) 436-7921.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

The Innisfil Lions Club will be hosting a New Year's Eve Dance. There will be live entertainment, dancing, midnight buffet, party favours and a cash bar. Tickets are \$50 per couple (\$25 per person). Tickets are available at the Innisfil Lions Hall on Monday and Thursday nights between 7-9 pm. For more information, call (705) 431-6168.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH

The York Simcoe Naturalists Club will be holding their meeting at 7:30 pm in the River Drive Park Community Centre, 20 Oak Avenue, in River Drive Park. Songbirds of the Boreal Forest will be the topic. Refreshments will be served - bring own mug. For more information, call (905) 898-2329 or 1-800-216-3830. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH

The Irish Club of Barrie is putting on a Talent Extravaganza from 2 until 5:30 pm at the Barrie Legion on St. Vincent. There will be many acts entertaining and all the proceeds will be going towards the RVH Dialysis Clinic. Tickets are \$15 per person, children under 12 are \$5. There will be Harry the Cap, Double Toe Cloggers, Harpist Anneliese Cameron, Barbershop Quartet, Milelr School of Irish Dancing and much more. Get your tickets as there is limited seating. For tickets call Angie Chisholm (705) 456-1595, Renne Hall (705) 431-1087, Bob Cathers (705) 721-8310.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18TH

The Prostate Cancer Support Group, Man to Man, will be meeting at 7:30 pm at the Canadian Cancer Society Office, 64 Cedar Point Drive, Unit 1406 in barrie. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month. Ladies are welcome and will meet separately. For more information, call (705) 726-8032.