

# Some thoughts on the celebrated life of Robbie Burns

## CHURCHILL NEWS

by Linda Gerow

Humanist, humourist and patriot Robbie Burns died in 1796. By 1801, a group of Ayrshire men were already honouring their friend at an annual dinner, "Whiskey and freedom gang t'gither."

Imbibing a wee dram would have enhanced many of the things he loved best: Sociability, earnest argument, music, dancing and, of course, the lassies! He may have scandalized polite society with his brashness, but despite this, or perhaps because of it, he had a phenomenal way of raising people's spirits and making them glad. He emphasized decency in a world that barely knew it, and fostered a sense of dignity and self worth in his all but broken people.

Every year people celebrate Robbie Burns with dinner, eating the haggis, or dancing the night away. That's what they'll be doing at the Legion in Bell Ewart

on the 26th.

Library news: From Churchill branch manager, Debra Mann. Phone number is 456-2671. The branch is closed on Sundays, Mondays and Fridays.

Registration for programs: Our next session will run the week of Jan. 15 to Feb. 26. Registration began on Jan. 8. Check with the branch for space availability.

F3 (Food, friends, fun): Hang out with us as we make tasty snacks, play games and do other activities in this after school club. Tuesdays 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Family storytime: A storytime for children of all ages accompanied by their caregivers.

This storytime includes games, rhymes, fingerplays and stories is designed for the whole family to enjoy. Thursdays 2 to 2:45 p.m.

Family Literacy Day:

Visit our local branch on January 26th at 1 p.m. for a chance to win fun prizes. Families are invited to join in on the ABC Family Literacy board game, an oversized board game that allows the people to act as the playing piece. Please register in person or by phone. This is a free event. Call 456-2671.

Celebrate Family Day with the Frosty Challenge by building a snowman together! Teams of two to five people will have one hour to build a snowman. The team with the best snowman will win four passes for tubing at Snow Valley.

This a free event, registration. Saturday February 23 at 1 p.m. See library for rules and regulations.

Silver Birch: A reading program for children in grades 3 to 6. This program includes 10 fiction and 10 non-fiction titles. It also includes 10 express titles that are aimed at grades 3 to 4. Children are invited to read at least five titles from

each category and vote on their favourite title. Call your branch for details.

Movies: All tickets are \$2, refreshments are \$1. Churchill branch: Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium - Feb. 16 at 1 p.m.

Bee Movie - March 1 at 1 p.m.

Coming soon - Alvin and the Chipmunks and The Water Horse.

Churchill United Church news: Visit the website at [www.churchillgilfordunitedchurches.org](http://www.churchillgilfordunitedchurches.org). Check it out!

Churchill Community Play Group meets Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at the Churchill United Church on Highway 11. Toys, crafts, songs, books and snacks are available along with coffee and friendship. Please call Kim for information at 456-1859.

Pancake supper: St. Peter's Anglican Church hosts their annual pancake supper on Tuesday February 5th at 5 p.m. Donation only. Come and enjoy some great food and fellowship.

Euchre: Until further

notice, the euchre at St. Peter's Anglican church, Wednesdays at 1 p.m., has been postponed.

Robbie Burns dinner: Jan. 26th, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the RCL in Bell Ewart, Branch 547 located on Robinson Street. It will feature a traditional Burns dinner with all the trimmings, including Maggie's own haggis. The Innisfil Pipe Band will be in attendance and the haggis will be piped into the hall. After a concert from our pipe band, we will be entertained by the legion's DJ, Bill Van Berkel. Karaoke will be available for the singers in the crowd. This event is now sold but you can always go on the waiting list. Call Joyce for details at 431-9231.

World Day of Prayer: The annual World Day of Prayer service will be held at Lefroy United Church on Friday March 7 at 1 p.m. The origins of World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women of the United States and Canada initiated a

variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and in other parts of the world. This year, the country represented is Guyana. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please call Lynn for information at 733-3692.

Smile: Dean and Jerry were riding a train across the west. Jerry looked out the window and saw a whole lot of buffalo roaming the range.

"Look at that big bunch of buffalo," said Jerry.

"Don't say bunch, say herd," replied Dean.

"Heard what?" said Jerry.

"Herd of buffalo", replies Dean.

"Sure, I've heard of Buffalo," exclaims Jerry.

"No, you don't understand, a Buffalo herd!" I don't care what a buffalo heard," says Jerry. "I ain't said nothing that I'm ashamed of."

If you have any news/items for this column, please contact me at 436-9769 or e-mail [lagerow@rogers.com](mailto:lagerow@rogers.com).

## Pick up tickets for a Valentine Dance at the Thornton Community Centre

### THORNTON NEWS

by Cathie Miller

I inadvertently put the wrong date in for the next

Essa Historical Society meeting as being held on Jan. 28. It will actually be held on Saturday January 26 starting at 1:30 p.m. at the

community room in the Thornton Library. The agenda has changed for the meeting and the annual reports will be presented

along with show and tell for roll call. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call 458-9971.

Have you picked up your tickets for the Thornton Area Action Committee's annual Valentine Dance? It will be held at the Thornton Community Centre starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 per person and include a lunch served at 11 p.m. DJ Keep Them Dancing will provide the music and there will be door and spot dance prizes. Bring your Sweetheart and some friends and enjoy the evening dancing the night away. Call Terry at 458-9054 for more information or tickets.

At the Ivy Presbyterian Church they welcomed six new members on Sunday January 13 by profession of faith.

Welcome to Pam Wesson, Carol Wharton, Gary and Pat Croteau and Lorna and Bill White. The next meeting of the Fighting Temptation youth group will be on Thursday January 31

starting at 6:45 p.m. All children in grades 4 to 8 are invited to join them in the shed. For more information, call 424-2987.

At the library many events are taking place as usual. The storytime sessions started again this week and the next Early Years story and craft session is planned for Feb. 19. Family Literacy Day is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year on Jan. 27. Plan to spend some time with your family reading a favourite book together or sharing a joke or two to celebrate this important day. Did you know that the library has an online book club? If you've read a good book and want to share it with others, this is the place to do it. Visit their website at [www.essa.library.on.ca](http://www.essa.library.on.ca) for more information. Also at the library, the Community Access Program (CAP) has returned. Call the library to book your free one on one lessons.

It's that time of year

again to renew your dog tags. One year tags are available at both branches of the library for just \$20 each. Bring a valid copy of your dog's rabies vaccination certificate and cash or check. For a two year tag you must visit the Township of Essa offices. Call 424-9770 for more information.

Cyberbullying is becoming a major concern for parents and caregivers everywhere.

A special presentation on internet safety will be presented by OPP Sergeant Robyn MacEachern on Thursday January 31 starting at 7 p.m. at the Angus Recreation Centre gymnasium.

Everyone is welcome to come and learn how to keep your children safe while on the internet.

If you have any news, announcements, or coming events, you can e-mail me at [thorntonnews@rogers.com](mailto:thorntonnews@rogers.com), call 458-0869 or drop it off at 25 Robert Street. Bye for now.

## Planning for Robbie Burns dinner

### LEGION NEWS

by Ed Collins

Robbie Burns dinner: We are all ready for the big evening, so all of you lucky people, who have tickets, better get out your bib and tucker along with your dancing shoes, and start practicing the two step and waltz. Don't forget cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the lounge at 6 p.m., with the

dinner beginning at 6:30.

Valentine dinner: We are planning a Valentine Sunday dinner Feb. 10.

It will be our first Sunday dinner of the season, featuring roast beef, Yorkshire Pudding, mashed potatoes, gravy and all of the trimmings. There will be one sitting starting at 5 p.m. with everyone welcome. Please call ahead if you are planning to attend so we can

plan accordingly. Call Joyce at 431-9231 or Maggie at 456-7293 for information and to reserve you place. Price for this event will be \$9. So if you missed Robbie Burns, you can make up for it by bringing your favourite Valentine out for a nice dinner.

Membership is due by the end of January, this is a must, if you want to keep active in the branch.

## Innisfil Where Opportunity Meets Prosperity

### The public is invited to attend a: PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

#### On Proposed Amendments to the Town's Zoning By-law to provide Housekeeping Revisions and Corrections to Maps and Text

**Date:** Tuesday January 29, 2008  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Town of Innisfil Municipal Office  
Council Chambers  
2147Innisfil Beach Road

#### Purpose of Public Open House:

In 2004, The Town prepared a Zoning By-law Consolidation, known as By-law No. 054-04, of the six former Zoning By-laws existing prior to municipal restructuring in 1993. Since the passing of By-law No. 054-04 in 2004 it has been identified that there had been lands and text of the former By-laws which were not accurately reflected in this new By-law. In 2005, The Town passed By-law No. 045-05 to reflect some of the concerns that the public identified. Additional items have since been identified which require attention and Council has given direction that a further By-law be prepared.

The purpose and intent of this Open House is to present the proposed revisions to the By-law and to receive any other input from the public for additional revisions.

Following the Public Open House the comments received will be reviewed and considered. A subsequent formal Public Meeting under the Planning Act will be held where Council can consider further written and oral presentations prior to giving consideration to passing the amending Zoning By-law.

For more information on the Public Open House please contact Ross Cotton, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning at [rcotton@innisfil.ca](mailto:rcotton@innisfil.ca) or 705-436-3710

Further information is available on the Town's website: [www.innisfil.ca](http://www.innisfil.ca)