

A Groundhog Day history lesson

CHURCHILL NEWS

by Linda Gerow

Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, was inspired by an old Scottish couplet, "If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year." How groundhogs got a reputation for predicting weather patterns is a mystery, because they are not the least bit interested in their shadows or the number of winter weeks remaining. In Canada, it was 1956 before Warton Willie became a household name for his early February prognostications. This being an expansive nation, there are

other groundhogs in other jurisdictions. Nova Scotia has Schubencadie Sam, who's the first in the country to rear his head on Groundhog Day. The original Warton Willie, an albino groundhog said to be 22 years old, died during hibernation during the winter of 1998-99. Willie's death made headlines around the world. Will we have six more weeks of winter? Of course we will no matter what Willy says, but hey, it's fun to wait and see what happens. I'm counting on you, Willy, for

an early Spring!

Library news: From Churchill branch manager Debra Mann. Phone number is 456-2671. The branch is closed on Sundays, Mondays and Fridays. Our next session of programs runs from Jan. 15 to Feb. 26. 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 from 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 from 2 to 2:45 p.m.

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 registered free event. 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. Call your branch for details.

Movies — All tickets are \$2, Refreshments are \$1. Churchill branch will show Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium on Saturday February 16 at 1 p.m. and Bee Movie on Saturday March 1 at 1 p.m. Coming soon are Alvin and the

Chipmunks and The Water Horse.

Churchill United Church news: Visit the website at 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.

The Parish of Churchill and Cookstown Junior Youth Group (COOL) has its next meeting on Jan. 31 at St. Peter's, beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is for youth aged nine to 12 years.

Call Pam at 735-3484 for information. The youth group now has a new name, Christians Obey our Lord (COOL).

Senior youth group: The teen youth group will meet Sundays at St. John's Anglican Church in Cookstown from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Please contact Pam for any information and upcoming dates at 735-3484.

Pancake supper: Churchill United Church

will be hosting their annual pancake supper on Tuesday February 5th at 5:30 p.m. Adults \$6, Children \$3 and preschoolers free. Come and help support our youth.

Pancake supper: St. Peter's Anglican Church hosts their annual pancake supper on Tuesday February 5 at 5 to 7 p.m. Donation only. Come and enjoy some great food and fellowship.

Euchre: Euchre at St. Peter's Anglican church takes place on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to drop by any Wednesday and join in.

Smile: One day Mr. Jones was playing golf and died of a heart attack. Nobody wanted to tell Mrs. Jones. When Mrs. Jones got worried one of his friends told her that he lost five thousand dollars playing poker.

Mrs. Jones said, "He probably dropped dead when that happened."

"Funny you should mention that," said his friend.

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



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INNISHORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BARRIE, ONTARIO

GENERAL CONTRACTOR & SUB-CONTRACTOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Simcoe County District School Board proposes to construct a new 5800 m² Elementary School in the City of Barrie. The project will be tendered in February 2008 with construction starting in early spring, and be substantially performed by July 2009.

Tenders will be invited from a list of prequalified General Contractors, Mechanical, Electrical and Masonry Sub-Contractors.

Proposals shall be based upon CCA Document No. 11 as well as supplementary documentation to demonstrate managerial, safety and financial bonding capabilities. Only General Contractors who have completed similar buildings of a value not less than \$8,000,000 will be considered.

Contractors interested in being prequalified to bid the work MUST submit the following:

- Completed CCA Document No. 11
- Resumes of management to be assigned to the project.
- Letter from a nationally recognized Surety Company stating total bonding limit, current bonding committed, and confirming availability of required bonding for this project; 50% Performance Bond, 50% Labour & Material Payment Bond and 10% Bid Bond (General Contractor only)
- Letter authorizing SCDSB, or their agent, to obtain financial information from Institutions on the applicant.
- Detailed description of Contractor's Health and Safety Policy and written confirmation that all health and safety policies will be followed for the duration of the project.
- Submissions of most recent CAD-7 Calculation Profile forms issued by the WSIB.
- Letter from the applicants Insurance company stating liability coverage.
- Complete list of subtrades (with phone numbers) for most recent school project of similar value to amount noted above.
- A summary of all existing or pending litigation involving the applicant which relates to existing or past construction projects in which the applicant is or was involved.

Tenders will be invited from the list of prequalified Contractors and Sub-contractors only. A maximum of 8 will be selected for each category. The pre-qualification process will include an assessment of previous performance in a number of areas including but not limited to: work of similar scope and size, scheduling, management, workmanship, deemed completion, correction of deficiencies, references, supervisory staff and Health and Safety records.

Expressions of Interest information shall be submitted to the Architect listed below in a sealed envelope labeled:

Expressions of Interest
Innishore Elementary School
Moffet & Duncan Architects Inc.
Attention: Robert Ferkul
5052 Dundas Street West
(416) 239 2775
(416) 239 6729 facsimile

at or before 12:00:00 noon local time, Tuesday, February 5th, 2008.

MARYANNE WILSON
Chairperson

K. GORDON CAMPBELL
Director

Looking for some good news from Warton Willy

LEFROY/BELLE EWART NEWS

by Linda Gerow

Hurray, January is almost over. I don't know about you but I've had enough of winter and can't wait for spring. Guess you can tell that I'm not a winter sport enthusiast. I sure hope Warton Willy brings us good news this weekend.

The Thornton Area Action Committee's Valentine Dance will be here before you know it. Do you have your tickets? They cost just \$12.50 per person and include dancing to the music from DJ Keep Them Dancing, a lunch served at 11 p.m. and door and spot dance prizes.

It will be a fun evening for everyone. Call Terry at 458-9054 for tickets or information.

The Fighting Temptation

Youth Group from the Ivy Presbyterian Church will meet tomorrow evening, Jan. 31, starting at 6:45 p.m. All children in grades 4 to 8 are invited to join in with the activities in the shed. Call 424-2987 for more information or directions.

Also, tomorrow evening there is a presentation at the Angus Recreation Centre gymnasium for parents and caregivers about cyberbullying.

This presentation on internet safety will be led by Sgt. Robyn MacEachern starting at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Christ Church-St. Jude's in Ivy will be hosting its annual pancake supper on Tuesday February 5. It will be held at the Ivy Orange Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults are \$5, children ages six to 12 are \$2.50 and children five and under are free.

It's a new year, so it's time to renew dog tags. One year tags are available at both library branches for just \$20 each. Bring proof of your dog's rabies vaccination and cash or check. Two year tags are available at the Township of Essa offices only. Call 424-9770 for more information.

The Community Access Program (CAP) has returned to the library. Need help learning to use your computer or surf the net? This is the place to go for free one-on-one training. Call the library at 458-2549 for more information or to sign up for a lesson.

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

Library showing movies

On Saturday February 1, the Cookstown branch of the Innisfil Public Library will be showing Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium at 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$2. Refreshments are \$1.

In the movie, Molly

Mahoney is the awkward, insecure manager of Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium, the strangest, most fantastic, most wonderful toy store in the world.

But when Mr. Magorium,

a 243-year-old eccentric, bequeaths the store to her, a dark and ominous change begins to take over the once remarkable emporium.

On Feb. 23 at 1 p.m., the branch will show The Bee Movie.