

February is the month for romance

CHURCHILL NEWS

by Linda Gerow

The history of Valentine's Day, and its patron saint, is shrouded in mystery.

But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'Valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl, that may have been his jailer's daughter, who visited him during his confinement, according to www.history.com.

Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legend is murky, the stories

certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France. Have you remembered your special Valentine this year? I hope so.

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

First Nations Public Library Week runs from Feb. 11 to 16 this year. Ontario celebrates First Nations Public Library Week in February each year during the week in which Valentine's Day occurs. The winter timing of the week observes the First Nations' traditional snow-on-the-ground time for storytelling.

Celebrate Family Day, Feb. 18th, 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. Call your branch for details.

Movies: All tickets are \$2, Refreshments are \$1. Churchill branch: Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium on Feb. 16 at 1 p.m. Bee Movie on 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. 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 Valentine's Day, Feb. 14th 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 alternate 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.

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.

Looking ahead: World Day of Prayer March 7th at Lefroy United Church, beginning at 1 p.m. The country represented this year

is Guyana. For information call Lynn Johnston at 733-3692.

Ham and scalloped potato dinner at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Friday April 4th from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for the students (12 and under). Preschoolers are free.

Smile: A New York family bought a ranch out west where they intended to raise cattle. Friends came to visit and asked if the ranch had a name.

"Well," said the would-be-cattleman. "I wanted to call it the Bar-J, my wife favoured the Suzy-Q, one son liked the Flying-W, and the other son wanted the Lazy-Y. So, we're calling it the Bar-J-Suzy-Q-Flying-W-Lazy-Y."

"But, where are all your cattle?"

"None have survived the branding." If you have any news/items for this column, please contact me at 436-9769 or e-mail lagerow@rogers.com.

Saints celebrated at legion

LEFROY/BELLE EWART NEWS

by Linda Gerow

What a terrific time we had at the Valentine's dinner at Branch 547, the Belle Ewart Legion, on Sunday evening. Our thanks have to go to Maggie and her great kitchen helpers and to Ed, who keeps us in line. Also, thanks go to Joyce, who is always selling the tickets and greeting people at the door.

The next dinner is the St. Patrick's one on March 16th. Tickets are \$9 and they are already selling. Get your ticket early by calling Joyce at 431-9231.

Roast beef dinner: Gilford United Church will host its roast beef dinner on Wednesday February 20th at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

respectively. There will be homemade pies as well as roast beef and all the trimmings. Admission is \$13 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. For tickets please call 458-2006.

World Day of Prayer: The annual World Day of Prayer service will be held at Lefroy United Church on Friday March 7th 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. Reverend Dr. Peter Kuqba-Nyande from Wyevale-Waverly Pastoral Charge will lead the worship service. Luncheon to follow.

Please call Lynn for information at 733-3692.

Grange Cafe in Lefroy by the United Church: Featuring Poor Tom. The group has adopted the elements of Celtic, folk, bluegrass, blues and country roots music, with classic rock and classical music. Poor Tom has created a sound all their own. Special performances by our own local talents. The event takes place on Saturday March 29 from 7 to 10 p.m. Coffee, tea and snacks with great conversation. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. For more information, e-mail simcoeliving@rogers.com or call Andrea at 436-7171 or Pat at 705-623-5837. This is a smoke free event.

Bridal Events: Lefroy United Church will be the hosting two bridal events at the Grange Hall on April 26th. A bridal show for

brides and their entourage will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For everyone who loves the beauty and romance of a wedding, a fashion show will start at 7:00 p.m. The \$10 admission fee for the fashion show includes refreshments. Local businesses can showcase their products and services for a nominal fee of \$20 (tables provided). For more information please contact Andrea at simcoeliving@rogers.com or 436-7171, or Patti at rodgers.bbexcavating@sympatico.ca or 623-5837.

Quote: I have this theory that chocolate slows down the aging process. It may not be true, but do I dare take the chance?

- unknown

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

Answering questions on organ donation

By Gabriel Etele

When it comes to organ and tissue donation, health, not age, matters most; even people in their 90s have saved a life by becoming organ donors. So, to answer one of the frequently asked questions about organ donation, you're never too old to give the gift of life to one or more of the 4,200 men, women and children on Canadian organ transplant lists.

There are several FAQs about organ donation.

What organs can be donated? It is possible to donate your kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, pancreas, eyes, stomach and small bowels as well as bones and other tissue. In fact, a single donor can save as many as 11 lives.

If I sign an organ donor card or register with an organ donor registry, can I change my mind later? Yes, you can change your mind at any time. Remember to let your family know your wishes.

Is it true that even if I sign an organ donor card or register with an organ donor registry, my family can override my wishes to become an organ donor at the time of my death? Yes. That is why it is so important to discuss your decision with your loved ones.

If I agree to become an organ donor, will the doctors still make every effort to save my life? Absolutely. The doctors will only refer a patient as a potential organ donor once all lifesaving methods and procedures have been exhausted.

You'll find more information about organ donation and transplantation at www.organdonations.ca.



Call 1-877-510-510-2 and talk to a Registered Dietitian for free.

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