

Put down your cell phone in the company of others

COOKSTOWN NEWS

by Barb Baguley

Most of us would agree that cell phone and blackberry type devices are a good thing.

They keep us in touch and available when we are needed by family or business obligations but they are beginning to take over our lives and it is time we all thought about the use of these devices. People who use their Blackberries or cell phones in meetings, typing away on the unit's keyboard are being distracted and often not paying attention to the speaker. Some Blackberry users admit that they just can't seem to turn their units off. This is spilling over into the personal part of our lives as well. The person or group that I am with is the most important, and I will be making the extra effort to put away the mechanical devices in favour of personal, face to face contact.

Home Hardware is hosting an opportunity to dispose of e-waste in their H.F. Smith Lumber store July 19. The event is sponsored by Thriftopia.com and runs from 12 to 5 p.m. A variety of electronic equipment will be collected for recycling including computers, printers, scanners, fax machines, cell phones, telephones, MP3 players, iPods, stereos, cable boxes, wires and power tools. There is no charge for this event.

Televisions and computer monitors will not be collected during the event. However, they can be taken to Unit 3, 33 Alliance Boulevard in Barrie, Monday to Friday from 9

a.m. to 4 p.m., or disposed of by calling 828-7162.

Habitat for Huronia has purchased a property in Barrie and will hopefully start building in mid-summer. They are looking for volunteers of all kinds to help with the building of this home. Contact Melody, the affiliate administrator, at 727-0802 or habitat_hurononia@mcw.net to register. Habitat is more than building. Habitat is a people-to-people organization forming partnerships with community leaders, builders, suppliers, volunteers and family partners and together providing simple, adequate and affordable housing to low income families. Habitat's mission is to provide the pride and the responsibility of home ownership to low income families, and work towards eliminating substandard housing one house at a time.

The Gilford and District Horticultural Society will host the Welcome to My Garden Tour Saturday July 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine. Tickets are \$10. Enjoy a summer day in the country visiting a variety of interesting gardens. It has been arranged for you to view seven gardens that are newly designed, easily maintained, traditional, shady woodlands, waterfront and large properties with well established beds. Then, it's on to their tree garden at the South Innisfil Arboretum where many specimens have been planted on the nine acre site. Other attractions at the arboretum include a gazebo, a 34-foot totem pole and garden beds of

perennials, grasses and a water wise garden. You may bring your lunch and enjoy the facilities at the arboretum. For information, visit www.southinnisfilarboretum.org.

St. Peter's Anglican Church's third annual boat cruise leaves the Port of Orillia on Tuesday July 22nd at 6:30 p.m., and will return at 8:30 p.m. There will be a light luncheon provided on board, along with a cash bar. Tickets are \$25 each. Contact Dean at 456-2202 for information and ticket details.

Register now at the Cookstown branch of the Innisfil Public Library for the summer reading club and receive a cool poster and log book to record all the books you read or have read to you. For every five age appropriate books you record you will receive a prize and after 25 books your name will be entered in a draw for the grand prize. The reading contest began July 2nd with a special event planned each week.

The Funny Fairy Tale Week special activity is Wednesday July 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The event is for ages three and over, with a fee of \$2. The Three Little Pigs ... The Wolf's Side of the Story! Come create your own little pig mask.

The Comedy Week special activity is Wednesday July 16 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for those ages three and over, with a fee of \$3. The joke is on us at our kooky Christmas in July. Enjoy a quick visit from Santa, who is in between his summer vacation with Mrs. Claus, and some of his favorite elves.

Show and tell special

activity is Wednesday July 23 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for those ages three and over with a fee of \$2. Bring something special from home and share it in our Munsch Show and Tell and enjoy mud pudding.

Come and enjoy a movie this summer at the library. All ages are welcome to sit back, relax and enjoy the summer line up for \$2 per ticket and \$1 for refreshments. The movies take place Wednesdays in Cookstown at 1 p.m. July 9, see Nim's Island, where a young girl inhabits an isolated island with her scientist father and communicates with a reclusive author of the novel she's reading. On July 16, see Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, where a poor boy wins the opportunity to tour the most eccentric and wonderful candy factory. On July 23, see The Forbidden Kingdom, where a discovery made by a kung fu obsessed American teen sends him on an adventure to China where he joins up with a band of martial arts warriors in order to free the imprisoned Monkey King.

Laugh Out Loud Mini Quest at the library. Ready, Set, Laugh! Enter the library's fun filled Mini Quests Summer 2008. Draw dates are July 16, 30 and Aug. 6. Ask for your Mini Quest ballot at the circulation desk of the library and remember, there's only one ballot per day.

The Gilford and District Horticultural Society general meeting will be held July 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Churchill Community Centre, titled Gardens in England. Georgie Kennedy, master gardener and retired school teacher, designed the GDHS

a water wise corner garden at the South Innisfil Arboretum. Kennedy has enjoyed the Chelsea Flower Show but found many of the private gardens even more interesting. She will share her tour of beautiful gardens of England with this highly acclaimed presentation. Gardening is her creative connection to the world of living things and she doesn't like to be away from them too long. She's an exuberant speaker who is very entertaining and one you will enjoy.

Flower show: The Lily Trophy may be won that evening. Bring your specimens and enjoy the beautiful flowers. We have a well-stocked coffee table for visitors and members alike to enjoy. For further information, call Mona Rea at 456-0132 or visit www.gdhs.gardenontario.org.

Mark your calendar for August 11 at 7:30 p.m., for a general meeting of the GDHS at the Churchill Community Centre, with a presentation of useful tools for the gardener by a Lee Valley representative. Many of us are familiar with the name Lee Valley, known for quality gardening related tools and gadgets of every description. They have a wonderful mail order catalogue for garden tools and also for hardware and woodworking. Bring your wallet to this one as there will be product for sale.

Maple Leaf Seniors will not be holding meetings until September. For information call 458-2219.

Leaf and yard waste collection will start July 7. The items must be out to the curb by 7 a.m. Monday July 7, regardless of the collection day. Acceptable containers are Kraft paper leaf bags, unwaxed

cardboard boxes and open top rigid containers. Plastic bags will not be accepted. Plant materials, leaves, grass, pumpkins, straw bales, cornstalks, brush trimmings no larger than eight millimetre in diameter are accepted. Items that are not collected as yard waste include kitchen waste, rocks, dirt, branches, painted or treated wood, trimmings larger than 8 mm in diameter, animal feces and non-organic materials such as flower pots and plastic bags. Contact the County of Simcoe at 735-6901 or 1-800-263-3199 for more information.

If you wish to be a part of history by sharing your stories for a book about Cookstown, contact project coordinator Donna Wice at 436-2578. Interviewers are available to assist with the story telling process.

Cookstown United Church will have Don Spratt from Bradford do the services July 13, while Elaine Longland from Alliston will do the service July 20 and Lorne O'Neill, also from Alliston, will do the service July 27. Debra McGill, formerly of the Sarnia area, will start her ministry in Cookstown in August.

The Innisfil Heritage Committee will meet Thursday July 10 at 7 p.m. at the New Town Hall Meeting Room C. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

The South Simcoe Police Services Board is meeting Monday July 21 at 7 p.m. at the town hall, in rooms B and C. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Contact me at abaguley@bconnex.net or 458-9358 with your news for our community.

Ivy church offering vacation bible school this month

THORNTON NEWS

by Cathie Miller

Looking for something for your children to do? How about vacation bible school?

The Ivy Presbyterian Church, in partnership with Christ Church St. Jude's, will be hosting vacation bible school next week, July 14 to 18, from 9 a.m. until

noon. All children ages four to 12 are welcome to attend this fun filled spiritual week.

This year's theme is a country fair. You can register the morning of July 14 and the best part is there is no registration fee. The Ivy Presbyterian Church is located on the 20th Sideroad

of Essa in Ivy.

The Ivy Minor Baseball Association, the Toronto Blue Jays and local GM dealers are teaming up to bring young baseball players the opportunity to participate in a special clinic. The instructional baseball camp will focus on hitting, infield and outfield defence, pitching and catching for only \$30 per player. The fee also includes lunch and a

memento from the Blue Jays.

The camp is for boys and girls ages seven and older, and will take place on Sunday July 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ivy diamond. For more information, call 791-3604 or 739-9226 or visit their website at www.ivymenorbaseball.ca.

The Thornton library is an official cooling station for those days that it is hot and steamy. During regular

operating hours you can visit the library, relax, maybe visit with neighbours, read a book or use one of the computers while cooling off in air conditioned comfort.

There may still be space for your children to join the TD Summer Reading Club at the library.

They also run a great program for struggling readers called Reach for the Stars. Call the library at 458-2549 for more information.

The next Make n Take Storytime for preschoolers will take place at the Thornton library on July 22 and 29.

The free program is presented by the Essa Public Library and the Ontario Early Years Centre. Pre-registration is required.

If you have any news, announcements or coming events, you can e-mail me at or call 458-0869. Bye for now.

Canada Day parade and festivities were successful

LEGION NEWS

by Dianne Hubbard

Thank you to all who participated in the Canada

Day festivities at the legion on Saturday, and thanks to

all who helped with this event.

A special thank you to Bill Van Berkel and the Geranium Corporation for providing the kids playground.

Sunday dinner July 20: The event will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion, located at 1017 Robinson Street in Lefroy-Belle Ewart.

The doors to banquet hall

will open at 4:45 p.m., with dinner at 5.

Prior to this you are welcome to join in the comradery in the club room.

Roast beef with Yorkshire Pudding and all the

trimmings, will be served.

Book early to make sure you get a seat.

Contact Beverly Pring at 456-0704 or Dianne Hubbard at 431-5344, to reserve your place at a table.