

Entertainment

Former referee is part of *A Musical Journey*

What does a former National Hockey League referee do for excitement now? Well Bruce Hood gets involved in community theatre—that's what!

Homechild: A Musical Journey is coming to the stage at Erin's Centre 2000 Theatre on October 20, 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m., and October 22 and 23 at 2 p.m. It is based on a true account of a Welsh family torn apart by the child emigration movement in the early 20th century.

"Yes, I'm there on stage singing my lungs out and having a good time at the many rehearsals—I'm not sure about doing it for real though," Hood said with a grin, "I'm pretty nervous already just thinking about it!"

A resident of Erin, Hood was a referee in the NHL for 21 years starting back when there were just the Original Six teams, and he was the first to ref 1,000 league games.

This musical is a collaborative, community production involving the contributions of many talented members of Erin and surrounding areas, and resource support from the local community theatre.

Composer-playwright, Barb Perkins of Erin, travelled to Wales to research her family history, and has put her ancestors' story to music. Perkins discovered that following the untimely death of her great-grandfather, her great-grandmother had done everything in her power to keep her nine children together with her. Through a series of unfortunate circumstances, four of these children were

included in a party of orphans who were shipped to Canada as part of the child emigration movement.

Agencies set up the child migration schemes on the assumption that poor or orphaned children would have a better life in a new land, but often it was a life of unremitting hardship and abuse. *Homechild: A Musical Journey* is being presented as a tribute to Homechildren and their descendants everywhere. In Canada, these descendants make up about 10% of the Caucasian population.

Tickets are \$18, available at the Erin and Hillsburgh libraries and The Village Music Store in Erin. For Visa orders, visit or call What's Cookin', 98 Main Street, Erin, 519-833-0909. For information, call 519-855-6810, or visit www.homechildmusical.com.

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