



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Director Ruth Gardiner and members of The Believers junior choir including Hayley Peters (from left), Kerri-Ann Lehman, Jessica Spencer and Brittney Lehman prepare for Stouffville's annual Robbie Burns Supper at Parkview Village on Jan. 9. It's an annual sell-out.

COMING UP

Events in
Whitchurch-Stouffville

EDITOR'S PICK

Robbie Burns has his night in Stouffville

BY SANDRA BOLAN
sbolan@yrmg.com

Robbie Burns was known to decry hypocrisy with a wicked sense of humour, while enjoying a pint, chasing women and touting his Scottish pride, all of which he managed to also convey in his poetry.

In the 1700s Mr. Burns became a celebrated poet, not only in Scotland, but around the world.

"He certainly was a character," said Wilma Medley, a transplanted Scot now living in Stouffville.

Every January for the past 15 years, St. James Presbyterian Church has been hosting a Robbie Burns Supper complete with Haggis, cock-a-leekie soup, bashit neeps and champit tatties.

CHURCH SUPPER GREW

"(Church officials) thought it would be a good fundraiser for accessibility for the church," said Pat Welch, who organizes the event with Mrs. Medley.

The church was able to install a wheelchair lift this year thanks to the annual Burns' suppers.

The event was originally held at St. James, but over the years the supper has become so popular it was moved to the Parkview Village auditorium and even there, the 150 tickets sell out.

This year's Robbie Burns Supper takes place on Jan. 9 at 5 p.m. at Parkview, 12184 Ninth Line.

This year's entertainment includes popular singer Susan Brown as well as Scottish country dancers, highland dancers and poetry readings.

The emcee is Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason.

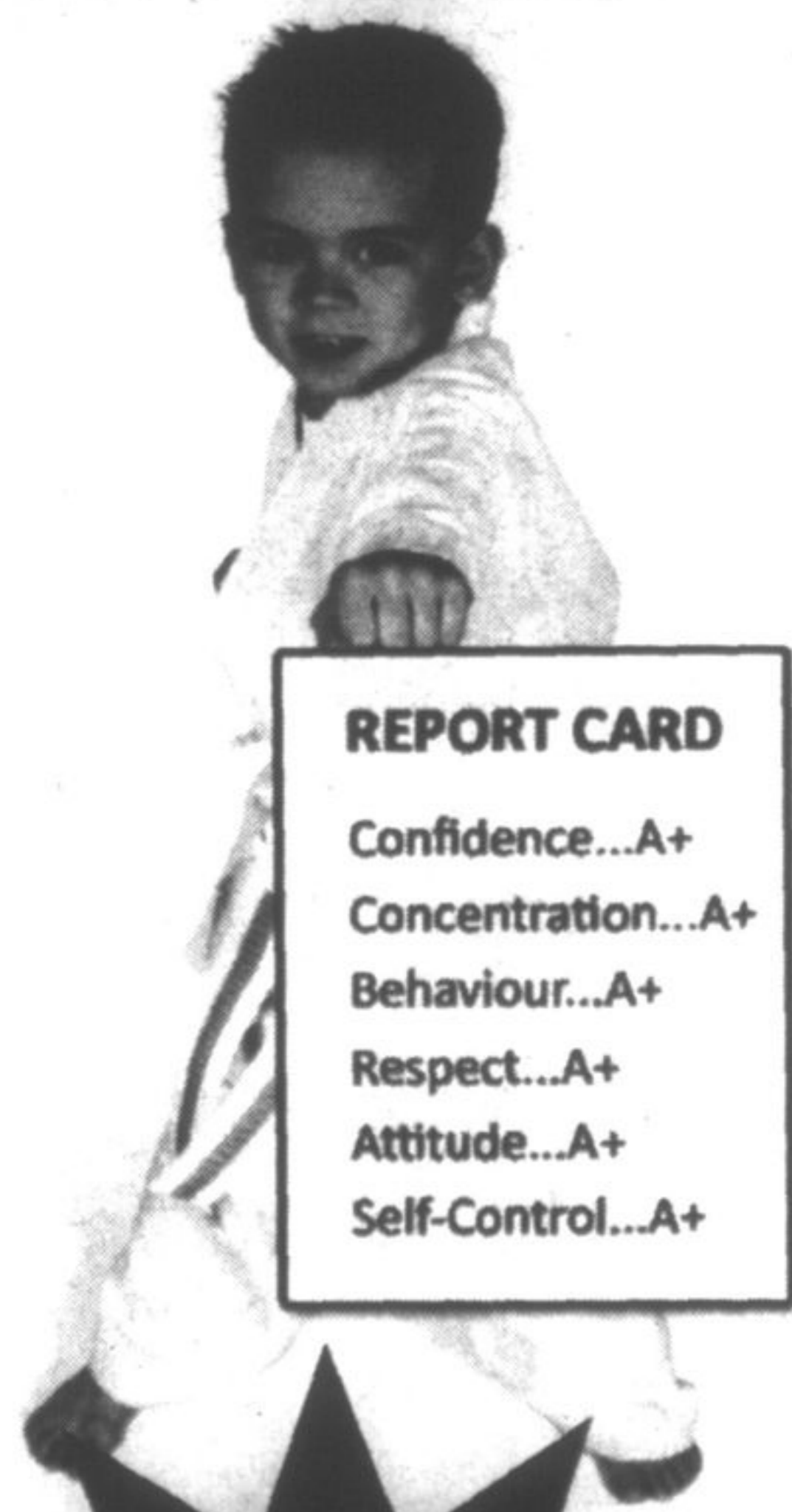
Tickets are \$16 and available from Jim Paterson at 905-640-4565 or Pat Welch at 905-640-2481.

ALL ABOUT MR. BURNS

- ▶ Born Jan. 25, 1759, in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland to father William and mother Agnes.
- ▶ He was the eldest of seven children, which included four boys and three girls.
- ▶ He was born as Robert Burnes but later changed it to Burns.
- ▶ As a young child Mr. Burns worked long hours on the family farm with his father, while his evenings were spent around the fire listening to his mother's stories and his father read from the Bible.
- ▶ Always a creative writer, Mr. Burns wrote his first poem at the age of 15. It was entitled Handsome Nell.
- ▶ Mr. Burns' first published work was in the book *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* in 1786. He was 27.
- ▶ Mr. Burns died July 21, 1796, at the age of 37.

source: The World Burns Club

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