COMING UP Music big at Burns' supper

BY SANDRA BOLAN sbolan@yrmg.com

One of the world's most famous Scots will be feted in Stouffville.

The 22nd annual Robbie Burns supper takes place Jan. 9, 5 p.m. in the Parkview Village auditorium.

"There's a lot of Scottish roots in Stouffville. There's certainly a lot of Scottish roots in St. James" Presbyterian Church, which is hosting the event, according to Margaret Russell, the evening's program co-ordinator.

The annual sell-out, this year, features entertainment by Susan Ryman and Jason Wilson.

Ryman, the former Susan Brown, is a favourite on the local gospel scene who has performed at the Burns' supper before.

Wilson, a Whitchurch-Stouffvile resident, is a Canadian historian and a two-time Juno-Awards nominated reggae musician, known for incorporating jazz and Scottish influences into his music.

"It's always a musical evening," Russell said.

The dinner consists of haggis, meeps, roast



JASON WILSON

beef, mashed potatoes, peas and dessert. Tickets are \$20 each and available through St. James Presbyterian Church, 905-640-3151.

Library book club for boys only

BY SANDRA BOLAN sbolan@yrmg.com

Boys don't like to read.

Or maybe the reality is that boys don't like to read what is given to them in the classroom, according to Me Read? No Way! A practical guide to improving boys' literacy skills, which was published by the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Boys do read a lot, in fact, outside of school - newspapers, comics, manuals/instructions and magazines - according to the report.

A study cited in the report found "boys who are considered to be problem or highly reluctant readers in the classroom had very rich literate lives outside school. ... What they did almost universally reject was 'school literacy."

One way to get boys interested in reading is to create a boys' only zone in a library, according to the report.

This January, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library will launch Novel Knights Boys Book Club. It is for nine- to 12-year-olds.

The library tried to launch a boys' only book club about 10 years ago, but it didn't go anywhere, according to Anne Houle, co-ordinator of children's services for the library.

"It's mainly because the town has grown so there's a bigger base to draw from," Houle said of why they are trying it again.

This time there's a waiting list to get in. The book club, which will meet one Friday a month from 4 to 5 p.m., is free.

High school show 'big' at gallery

Larger than Life is this year's Images exhibition at Latcham Gallery from the graduating class of Stouffville District Secondary School.

Larger than Life creates a gallery within a gallery with everyday objects on pedestals, cre-

During this past summer's library-hosted reading program for kids, 90 girls aged nine to 12 participated, while there were 66 boys in the same age group, according to Houle.

"A good book for a boy is one he wants to read," according to Me Read? No Way!

So what do they like to read? Books that reflect images of themselves and who they want to be, according to the report.

Boys also like books that make them laugh; appeal to their sense of mischief; fiction with a focus on action, not emotion; a series; science fiction or fantasy, as well as newspapers, magazines, comic books, trading cards and instructional manuals, according to the report.

Another way to get boys interested in reading is by having male role models actually read with boys, the report stated.

WHAT LADS READ

Walk into a library or bookstore, yes, both still do exist, and there are shelves and shelves of books for children. So how do you or your boys pick something that will grab and keep their interest?

The following is a list of highly recommended books for boys to get you started:

A Series of Unfortunate Events - Lemony Snicket

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - Roald Dahl Diary of a Wimpy Kid - Jeff Kinney

James and the Giant Peach - Roald Dahl

Lost in the Barrens – Farely Mowat

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing – Judy Bloom

ating the effect of going down the rabbit hole. Also included in the exhibition are expressive self-portraits, a large wall mural and other works created over the last semester.

The show runs from Jan. 6 to 16. The opening reception is Jan. 6, 7 to 9 p.m. at Latcham Gallery, 6240 Main St. The artists will be present. Everyone is welcome.



THURSDAY, DEC. 31

MATINEE AFFAIR

The Stouffville Spirit hosts the Pickering Panthers in Ontario Junior Hockey League action at 2:30 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena. Next home game is Saturday versus Wellington at 7:30 p.m.

MAYOR'S PARTY IN THE PARK

Mayor Justin Altmann's annual New Year's Eve celebration is on in Memorial Park from 6:30 to 9 p.m. This year's theme: Minions. Fireworks, games, food, entertainment and sleigh rides.

LEGION CELEBRATION

Royal Canadian Legion, 150 Mostar St., hosts a New Year's Eve party. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. More information from www.stouffvillelegion.ca or by calling 905-640-1714.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6

STUDENT PAINTERS

Images 2016: Larger Than Life, Works from the graduating art class at Stouffville District Secondary School, is the new exhibit at the Latcham Gallery in downtown Stouffville. The opening reception is on tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. The show continues through Jan. 16.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9

ROBBIE BURNS RETURNS

St. James Presbyterian Church hosts its annual Robbie Burns supper in the Parkview Village auditorium. For tickets or more information, call 905-640-3151.

Submit items for this calendar to jmason@yrmg.com and post calendar items at yorkregion.com

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FRESHCO	
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