

The choir makes beautiful music

Gilderdale
Free Press

Ballantrae Golf and Country Club recreation centre, residents are playing in the library or enjoying the library. In one of the party programmes, the Ballantrae Mixed Choir, led by Wayne Hill, is performing for the Christmas

George Bishop moved to Stouffville, Jane wondered if there was a lot going on in the area regarding exercise facilities, bookstores, etc. "I am very interested in singing in a choir before, and thought maybe I should do something to do. George Bishop moved to Stouffville, Jane wondered if there was a lot going on in the area regarding exercise facilities, bookstores, etc."

"We had known him for many years through his teaching in schools and we chatted with him regularly."

The choir encompasses about 30 members at present, she said. "It's totally different from most choirs because members sometimes go away and you have to work around that."

To reflect the ebb and flow, the ensemble is also known informally as the Come and Go Choir, she said. "People go away on cruises, then come back and dig right in."

Although most choir members have some experience as singers, enthusiasm is the only prerequisite for anyone interested in joining. "It's all about the joy of singing; we've got some really talented people here." Last year the choir's Christmas concert attracted more than 150 people, and once the complex is completed, Jane estimates the choir will grow to between 40 and 50 members.

In the meantime, the fledgling ensemble has already received recognition for its musical ability, said Jane. "We went into the York Region Music Alive Festival in the spring and we got silver."



Members of the Ballantrae Mixed Choir gather for a rehearsal at the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club recreation centre. The choir, under the direction of Wayne Hill, is preparing for a Christmas concert at the centre.

YDHR rides into fall colours

By Ron Layton

From the deep reds of the sumac bushes to the yellows and oranges of the maples and oaks, fall on the Oak Ridges Moraine is a riot of colour.

Mother Nature determines the exact timing, but a ride on the York-Durham Heritage Railway in October will reveal the best colours that the region has to offer. In preparation for winter, wildlife is often bolder at this time of year, and more than the usual number of sightings of beaver, deer, turkeys and foxes can be had from the train.

Trains leave from Uxbridge station at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and from Stouffville GO station at 1 p.m. on Oct. 7, 8, 15, 21 and 22. The train consists of vintage railway cars, some dating back over 85 years, hauled by 50-year-old "first generation" diesel locomotives. On board, passengers will find an open door baggage car with safety barriers for enhanced viewing of the fall colours, as well as souvenir and snack counters.

Round trip fares are \$18 for adults and \$12 for children aged two to 12, with

a \$15 fare for seniors (65+) and students from 13 to 17. Children under two and seniors 90 and over travel free. Group discounts are available, along with family passes at \$50 for two adults and up to three children. Caboose rides, at an additional \$10 per passenger, and one way trips are also available.

This season's special events include a Halloween trip, which takes place Oct. 27 from Uxbridge and Oct. 28 from Stouffville, and our Ride with Santa in November

and December from Uxbridge, Stouffville and Unionville. Thinking of a family birthday party? Contact us in advance and we can arrange a block of seats for your party. The birthday girl or boy always travels free.

In addition to the regular schedule, our train is available for midweek and weekend evening charters for larger private and corporate groups. Contact our charter hotline at 905-852-3696 or visit www.ydhr.on.ca for details.

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Authorized by the CFO for the campaign of Wayne Emmerson

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