

FE

Thursday, January 27, 2011 Editor **Randy Lucenti** • 705-325-1355 ext. 246 • newsroom@orilliapacket.com

support for Orillia campus



Submitted photo

development of Lakehead University – Orillia following the company to support the new student center. From left to right, Jim Sheardown, Barrie Welding campaign chair; Brian Smith, president of Lakehead University; and...

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new Orillia

■ **THE ARTS:** Orillia Club to cover costs of busing students for educational performances

Kiwanis, Opera House to provide in-theatre program for schools

Submitted

The Orillia Opera House is pleased to announce an exciting new partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Orillia, which has offered to cover the cost of busing for Orillia and district elementary schools traveling to and from educational performances in 2011.

Opera House general manager Krista Storey has been knocking on doors for a few years looking for a sponsor for what she considers to be an important tool for creative learning.

"This (sponsorship) takes a huge burden off the parents and the schools," said Storey. "We want all kids to have the opportunity to come through these doors."

Kiwanis Club president Tim Timpano is excited to participate and says that this is only the beginning.

"This is exactly the type of program that fits into the Kiwanis mandate of serving the children of our community," said Timpano. "We are very pleased to be able to support this initiative and look forward to seeing the program grow."

The initiative is expected to strengthen community support for the Live Learning Series of educational programs that were

developed for the Opera House for the 2010-11 season.

The series began with *Raven Stole the Sun* (Red Sky Productions) last fall and will continue with a visit from *Figura Theatre*, a supreme puppet show from Iceland on Thursday, Feb. 10.

"These presentations are geared toward primary grades," said Storey.

"For *Figura*, we've partnered with the Orillia Museum of Art and History and the Leacock Museum, who are offering puppet making workshops."

"Participation in the arts offers students the opportunity to learn about a variety of cultures and an appreciation for various forms of artistic expression of people around the world," said Jeff Clark, principal of Brechin Public School. "This sponsorship will help ease the cost of transportation for rural schools and students to attend arts presentations at the Orillia Opera House."

"We are always looking to enhance the in-class education of our students," said Ardrea Cumberland Beach Public School principal Mark Pennell. "When we are able to do so locally and with the support of local service clubs, it truly becomes a win-win-win situation as everyone benefits."



Storey

Pinnell's enthusiasm will no doubt be shared by Cumberland's entire primary division who are taking advantage of this opportunity.

"Children love to come to the Opera House. They ask the best questions," said Storey, stating that they also offer tours to school children and can provide a great deal of history on Orillia and the building itself for any age.

Later in the month, motivational speaker/singer Errol Lee, known for his Hero Club and character building workshops, has created a *Celebrating Black History* performance for intermediate grades; a true celebration of music and dance spanning 400 years of history that features a special performance of the Caribbean dance theatre to be presented at the Opera House on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

To learn more about the Live Learning Series, visit www.orilliaoperahouse.ca or contact Norbert at Omnibus by calling (800) 387-9948 or nak@tourolav.com.