

AROUND THE GTA

BEST BETS

Today

FOOD AND TOY DRIVE: Durham Region police stations, fire halls in Oshawa, Newcastle, Whitby and Ajax and the Drop-Off Centre at 1 Mary St., Oshawa, have launched the annual Christmas drive for unwrapped new toys or non-perishable food items, continuing through Dec. 22. For information: (905) 571-6699.

Tomorrow

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: A *Child Is Born*, with a cast of more than 100 children, will be presented for its 60th year at Kingsway-Lambton United Church, 85 The Kingsway, Toronto, at 7:30 p.m. today through Friday. For free tickets: (416) 234-8224.

Wednesday

SKATE WITH THE STARS: The Darryl Sittler Sports Celebrities Festival Skate to benefit the Special Olympics in Canada is scheduled for Mel Lastman Square, 5100 Yonge St., North York, from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Thursday

LIGHT THE TREE: Food, refreshments and a raffle will be featured at the 10th annual North York General Hospital Festival of Lights, 4001 Leslie St., at 7 p.m. Donations appreciated.

Friday

PIANO RECITAL: Alexander Tselyakov, prize winner of the International Tchaikovsky Competition, takes the stage at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4100 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, at 8:15 p.m. Adults \$15, students \$10. Call (905) 306-9900
MASSACRE VIGIL: Priscilla de Villiers will speak at a candlelight vigil hosted by the Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centre of Peel commemorating the 14 women killed in the Montreal massacre of 1989. Mississauga City Hall, 300 Borough Dr., at 7 p.m.

Saturday

CUMMINGS DOUBLE HEADER: Burton Cummings sings and plays the piano at his show, *Up Close and Personal*, Markham Theatre, Anthony Roman Centre, 171 Town Centre Blvd., Markham, 8 p.m. tonight and Sunday. Tickets \$35 and \$37.50. Call (905) 305-7469.
CHRISTMAS CHOIRS: The 100-voice Mississauga Festival Choir is joined by its Youth Choir for the 13th annual Christmas Concert at First United Church, 151 Lakeshore Rd. W., Mississauga, at 8 p.m. Adults \$12, seniors \$10. Call (905) 897-1636.
CARIBBEAN MARKET: African and West Indian art prints, floral arrangements, clothing, toys and food are among the offerings of more than 50 vendors at a Christmas Grand Market, The Jamaican Canadian Centre, 995 Arrow Rd., North York, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. For information: (416) 746-5772.

Sunday

HARBOURFRONT CONCERT: Host Barbara Budd recounts Margaret Laurence's Christmas tale, *The Olden Days Coat*, with music by the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus, in the Cushion Concerts series for children aged 5 to 12 and their families, Harbourfront Centre's Brigantine Room, York Quay Centre, 235 Queen's Quay W., at 1 p.m. Tickets \$8. For information: (416) 973-4000.
MUSIC AT McMICHAEL: Stephen Fearling's vocals and acoustic guitar and the Heartbreak Hill Quartet entertain from 1:30-4 p.m. in the lobby at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Islington Ave., Kleinburg, Vaughan. Free with admission to the gallery.
PARTY FOR A CAUSE: Dinner, dancing, a draw and silent auction are featured at a Christmas fundraiser for the Brain Injury Association of Peel and Halton at the Rock Niteclub, 107 Kennedy Rd., Brampton, 6 p.m. Tickets \$25. Call (905) 457-3901.
OPEN HOUSE: Old Britannia Schoolhouse has little gifts and stocking stuffers from bygone days, 5576 Hurontario St., Mississauga, 1-4 p.m.
THE MISSING LINK: Antique car collectors will be scouring the booths of 250 vendors looking for the parts and accessories to restore vehicles to their original glory. International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$3.
EAST YORK FEST: Four hours of entertainment and carol singing at the second annual Festival of Light, East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Ave., starting at 2 p.m.

Visit City Search site on the Internet at www.starcitysearch.com for a complete guide to the Greater Toronto Area. To submit major public events to Best Bets, fax (416) 869-4439 or write Best Bets c/o The Toronto Star, 1 Yonge St. Toronto M5E 1E6.

TODAY'S BLOOD DONOR CLINICS

- King City United Church, 50 Elizabeth Grove, King City, 4:30-8:30 p.m.
- York Mills Centre, 20 York Mills Rd., North York, 12-4 p.m.
- 170 University Ave., 6th Floor, Toronto, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- ManuLife Centre, 55 Bloor St. W., Toronto, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Now you see it . . .



BRIAN DEXTER / TORONTO STAR

In a photo 10 days ago, Tom Atkins of the Oak Ridges Trail Association, with dog Sally, stands beside section of hiking trail that has been ripped up on orders from King Township council.

New hiking boardwalk ripped up in King

BY BRIAN DEXTER
STAFF REPORTER

About 200 metres of hiking trail boardwalk built by volunteers has been ripped up on orders from King Township council.
 The boardwalk, on an unopened road allowance just west of the 12th Concession at 18th Sideroad, had been planned by the 530-member Oak Ridges Trail Association as the start of a 3-kilometre trail from King across into Caledon.
 The association, however, built the boardwalk in a swampy area without permission from council, believing wrongly that it had the green light from township officials.
 The proposed trail, to link with the Bruce Trail in

Caledon, is envisaged as part of the Trans-Canada Trail which by the year 2000 is supposed to have more than 3,000 kilometres in Ontario alone.
 In a 3-2 vote on Nov. 20 King council ordered removal of the boardwalk within two months. They ordered that the township seek a survey and appraisal of the public right-of-way prior to offering it for sale.
 Neighbouring property owners Alan Beardsmore and Jane Glasco have objected to the trail plans fearing potential trespassing nuisances and fire risks in tree plantations.
 A seven-member crew from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers took four days to build the boardwalk this summer.

Tom Atkins of the Oak Ridges Trail Association said yesterday in an interview that he hopes the new township council will have a change of mind on the issue.
 Evelyn Jurgens, township clerk, said a formal public hearing will have to be held on the closing and sale of the 18th Sideroad road allowance and because of required procedures no final decision is likely for six months to a year.
 Mayor Margaret Black said that at the moment the proposed trail, along unopened 18th Sideroad and King-Caledon Line, will hit a dead end south of Hall's Lake unless the Oak Ridges association can achieve agreements with property owners to continue the trail through to Caledon.

Peel / Halton
Press interview teacher banned

BY FRANK CALLEJA
STAFF REPORTER

A Mississauga high school teacher who reported to work during the teachers' strike has since been forbidden to return to school.
 Steven Twist, a math teacher at Westwood Secondary School, says he is being punished for talking to the press during the walkout.
 The 34-year-old teacher has been assigned home with pay and benefits by Peel Board of Education.
 Twist was due to meet this morning with Bridget Harrison, superintendent of secondary schools for the board.
 Twist said he intends to ask for \$200 in compensation "because I feel my reputation has been put in question."
 Twist agreed to be interviewed on Oct. 30 by a Toronto Star reporter.
 He informed principal Kerry Montgomery that he wanted "to symbolically cross the picket line" in defiance of the OSSTF teachers' illegal strike.
 He had been told the Peel board strictly prohibited board employees from having contact with the press.
 Board chair Beryl Ford said no teacher, including Twist, has been assigned to home because of the two-week, province-wide strike by teachers.
 But board spokesperson Brian Woodland said staff can be disciplined if they disobey specific directions from their superiors.
 "The board absolutely does not prevent staff from speaking with the media," Woodland said. "Assigning a teacher to home duty is a serious step taken only with great consideration and for legitimate reasons."
 "That's the kind of action (speaking with the press on school property after being told not to) that could result in discipline."

Car hits woman crossing QEW
 A Mississauga woman died after being run over while

ing to cross the Queen Elizabeth Way early yesterday morning.
 Danielle Edison, 22, was struck by a Ford Mustang the westbound lane, west of Mississauga Rd. about 4 a.m.
 Provincial police are trying to find out why she was crossing the highway as there is no indication she had car trouble.
 Edison was taken to Mississauga Hospital where she died of head injuries.
 Police say a dog was struck and killed by an unknown vehicle in the area. They believe the driver may have seen something.
 Anybody with information is asked to contact Port Credit OPP at 905-278-6131.

New McKechnie centre launched

Mississauga has launched the first phase of a project that will result in construction of a new community centre at Hurontario St. and Bristol Rd.
 The centre will be named after former councillor Frank McKechnie, who died three months ago while still in office. McKechnie served Ward 5 for almost four decades.
 "Mississauga will provide a flagship facility offering a range of library, aquatic and health-exercise facilities," said project leader Les Camm.
 The centre is scheduled to open in the fall of 1999.

Metro Toronto
Teen recovering after balcony fall

BY REBECCA BRAGG
STAFF REPORTER

A 17-year-old Scarborough youth who was critically injured after falling from an 11th floor balcony is expected to recover, police say.
 The province's special investigations unit has also begun to probe the incident since police were present when Anthony "Steve" Marriott fell Saturday night.
 Marriott, of Markham Rd. in Scarborough, remains in critical condition at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre after suffering multiple fractures and internal injuries.
 He underwent surgery late

Saturday and is expected to recover, a spokesperson for the SIU said.
 Police were called to an apartment building on Markham Rd., a block north of Eglinton Ave. E., after receiving a report of a stabbing around 7:10 p.m.
 A young man who lives in the apartment where the incident occurred said in an interview that two male visitors there got into a fight and one was cut in the face.
 Both then left the apartment, said the man, who asked to be identified only as Nicholas.

According to police reports, officers found the injured man in the hallway of the 14th floor, where he was treated by ambulance attendants.
 Nicholas said Marriott entered the 11th floor apartment about the same time police arrived and ran to the balcony, followed by an officer.
 "It all happened so fast, in about half a minute," he said.
 "First I heard the cop yell, 'He's climbing on the balcony, he's climbing on the balcony.'"
 "Then he said, 'He fell off the balcony.'"
 Marriott landed on a patch of grass in front of the building.
 The names of the two officers involved in the incident will probably be released today, Metro police Sergeant

Police charge 11 in R.I.D.E. blitz

BY PHILIP MASCOLL
STAFF REPORTER

Durham Region police stopped a record 4,200 cars in the first two days of their Christmas blitz and charged 11 people for alcohol-related offences.
 That figure represents 20 per cent of all the cars stopped during the entire six-week Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) program last festive season, Staff Sergeant Cherry Whiteway said yesterday.
 "Eleven may not seem like a large number, but 11 impaired drivers could do a lot of damage," Whiteway said.
 Those charged had their licences suspended for 90 days and will have to face the courts. If found guilty, they could face a further automatic one-year licence suspension plus fines and jail.
 In addition to the 11, one person was charged with dangerous driving, one with negligent offences and one with

Jim Muscat said.
 The SIU probes all police incidents involving deaths or serious injuries.
 This year's program was launched Friday.
 This year, the Durham Region force has doubled the number of officers on the R.I.D.E. checks from six last year.

York Region
Specialized care urged for region

BY BRIAN DEXTER
STAFF REPORTER

People in fast-growing York Region should get specialized hospital services closer to home rather than having to go to Toronto, says Frank Lussing, president of York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill.
 He said yesterday in an interview that inadequate recognition of this, by the province's Health Services Restructuring Commission, is a sore point.
 His hospital will be responding to the commission on its own and through the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance of hospitals, which has 17 member hospitals stretching from Burlington's Joseph Brant in the west to Bowmanville's Memorial in the east.
 Lussing said the regions outside of Toronto have until Dec. 19 to respond to the commission's revamping proposals for the 905 area, which were released Nov. 18.
 However, the commission in its approach has effectively locked-in past referral practices concerning patients as well as planning procedures.
 As a result, he said, "it is virtually impossible to truly allow us to provide services closer to home."
 It is claimed by 905 area hospitals that they already have sufficient population to allow improved speciality services like cancer, heart and orthopedic care.
 Lussing said it is not right that York Region residents will for years have to face trips to downtown Toronto hospitals for services they should get now in their own front yards.

Signposts
Commuter Corner

- AVENUE RD.:** Road reconstruction will mean Avenue Rd., from Dupont St. to St. Clair Ave. W., will be restricted to two lanes in each direction on a 24-hour basis. Work should be completed by Friday.
- DANFORTH AVE.:** Road resurfacing continues east from Prince Edward Viaduct to Pape Ave. Traffic will be restricted to one lane in each direction on a 24-hour basis, and left-turn lanes will be maintained. Work should be completed on Friday.
- DON MILLS RD.,** at Donway W. and Barber Green Rd., will be

- restricted to two lanes southbound Monday to Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. due to watermain installation. Work continues until Friday.
- LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.,** from Dwight Ave. to Hillside Ave., is restricted to one lane in each direction Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Dec. 12. Restrictions are due to the City of Etobicoke's watermain installations.