

HHAAC: Hard winter brings home the need to be neighbourly

I am sure 2014 will be a good year once we recover from the cold snaps that literally take our breath away.

December 2013 forced us to again realize just how dependant on electricity we are and the potential consequences we face during the winter when there is no heat or light.

This type of weather incident and its subsequent power outages is especially hard on the elderly, infirm, and the disabled. With ice making the streets and sidewalks impassable, not to mention downed tree limbs, power lines and hydro poles, this population is particularly vulnerable. Under these extreme circumstances they may be physically unable to leave their residences for food, water, medicine and other essentials.

That is why it is critical that we know

Andrew Tutty



who our neighbours are. Who are the elderly couple using walkers two doors down? What about the young woman at the end of the block who uses a wheelchair? Are they alone or are there people coming to their homes regularly?

In emergency conditions like we experienced, it is up to each of us to become our "brothers' keepers" wherever possible. As community members, we need to ensure that those around us who are most at risk have been provided assistance. It could literally be a matter of life and death.

I am grateful for my friends who helped

and especially my neighbours who took my elderly father in during the worst of the outage. They had a wood stove and gas fireplace and were able to stay warm. They even had hot food. They helped many others in any number of ways. Once my sis-

ter's electricity came back on the following day, dad went there until his own electricity came back on. He was safe and secure and we cannot thank these people enough.

Andrew Tutty is a member of the Town's Accessibility Advisory Committee

Acton Fall Fair ambassadors win Challenge

Acton's Fall Fair ambassadors prevailed at the first-ever Alliance Agri-Turf Challenge held during SnowFest Family Day, Monday Feb. 17 at the Caledon Fairgrounds.

Agricultural fair ambassadors from Acton, Albion/Bolton, Orangeville, Grand Valley, Erin, Shelburne, Schomberg and host fair Caledon competed in a timed obstacle race, which tested speed, agility and teamwork over obstacles that reflected not just

their agri-roots but also special recognition for the important role of fire stations in their community. Each ambassador competed with firefighting clothing.

Acton Fall Fair Ambassadors Jordan Lenz and Rebecca Nelles won gold, Schomberg Fair Ambassadors won silver and Erin Fall Fair Ambassadors Brittany Heller and Julie Gagnon the bronze. A rematch is planned at the 154 Caledon Fair, June 6-8.

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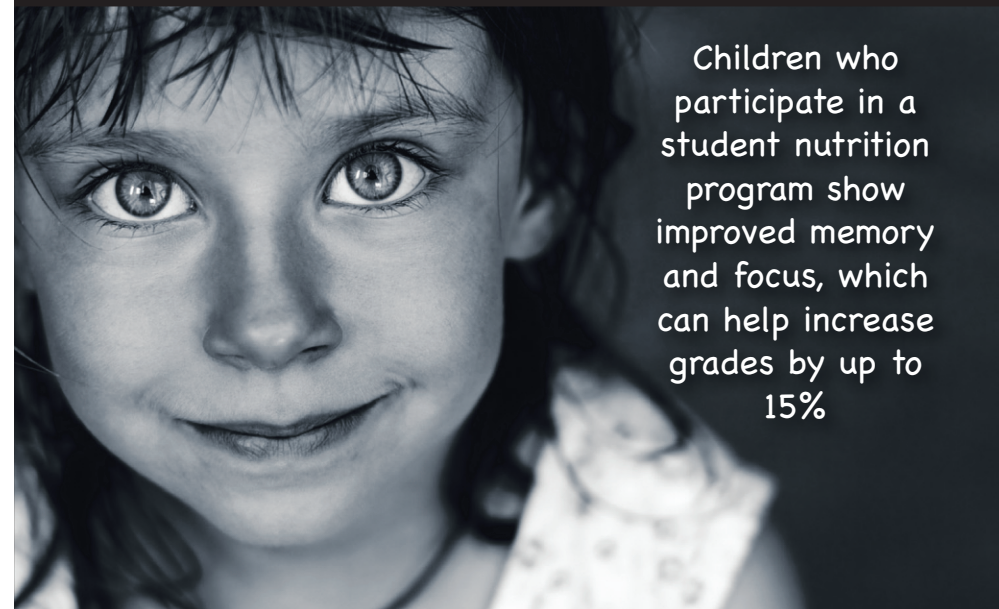
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