



AMIRAH EL-SAFY / SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

**BY DAY AT THE CAFÉ:** Shaun Waitzer (right) and his brother Mark run the Kerr Street Café. Shaun has also taken up the unlikely hobby of winter surfing.

# Surfin' through winter

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town Oakville. Coffee makers by trade, Shaun and his brother officially opened the café last May. The concept of the café was simple, "We just wanted it to be a place where we would like to go ourselves. We wanted a place where we could relax, have coffee, chat."

Kerr Street Café is already a regular haunt of writers and artists who live in the neighbourhood, and fits in seamlessly. Shaun and his brother are originally from New Zealand, but have officially been residents of Oakville for six years.

Shaun's unenviable hobby started with a chance sighting. A particularly rough winter storm blew through southern Ontario and Shaun happened to venture out that day and witness humble Lake Ontario in a display of churning, tempestuous glory.

Massive crests were breaking on the shores, and unbidden reveries of surfing in the unfriendly waters floated briefly in and out of his mind.

"I was sure no one did it," Shaun said earnestly, "because — why would you?"

Curiosity however, got the better of him. Shaun put aside scepticism for an afternoon and trolled the Internet for any evidence of such an unlikely group of surfing enthusiasts.

To his surprise, a small community of similarly minded individuals in the eastern end of Toronto could be found spiritedly chatting about their plans to surf the icy waves brought in by the next big storm.

Inspired by their grit and obvious devotion to the sport, Shaun got in touch with a man often mentioned on the forum, south western Ontario native Mike Sandusky, who runs the surfing website [www.surfontario.ca](http://www.surfontario.ca). "I e-mailed him," Shaun said, "And asked 'Hey, what's the story with this surfing on lakes?'"

It was Sandusky who set Shaun up with all the necessary gear to surf in such severe

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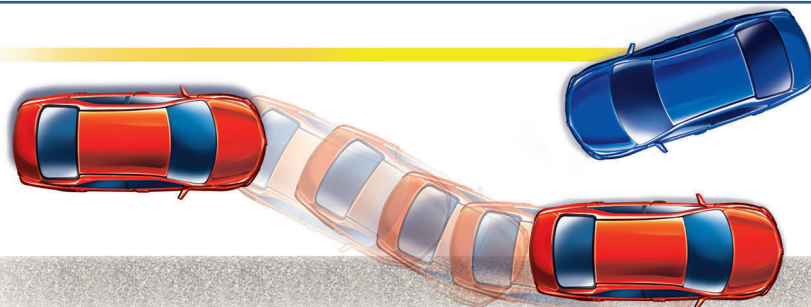
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