

localnews

COMMUNITY

Warkworth grandparents share Olympic Torch experience

WARKWORTH — Among the lucky people with local connections to a have carried the Olympic Torch is Wyatt Weppler, grandson of Warkworth residents Rosella and Jack Kelly, who did his part on Dec. 27 in Stratford.

Part of the excitement for 13-year-old Wyatt was the fact that he handed it off to CBC newsman Peter Mansbridge after his distance was covered.

Wyatt is familiar to local residents from working with his grandfather on their dairy and Belgian horse farm, including assisting at shows. But that's just one of his interests. The Grade 8 student at St. John Kilornick School plays hockey with the Waterloo Wolves (not to mention soccer, lacrosse and school sports, his grandmother listed).

Wyatt is the son of Rosella's daughter Suezanne and her husband Kevin Weppler. The family lived for two years in Mexico, then seven years in Indiana before moving to Waterloo in 2005.

Though Rosella and Jack could not be present in Stratford, Wyatt's aunts Jacquie Honsberger and Elaine Lean and their families attended. It was Elaine who got a super shot of Wyatt with Peter Mansbridge that Rosella and Jack will always cherish.

COBOURG — The Cobourg Odd Fellows and Rebekahs are hosting a free hot lunch next



Cecilia Nasmith
AROUND TOWN

Wednesday in memory of long-time Odd Fellow Howard Ferguson.

Over the years, Howard served in many offices in Cobourg Lodge #136 and, along with wife Rosemarie, also volunteered for at least 13 years with Fare Share Food Banks. Prior to his death in October 2008, he was a food bank manager.

The Jan. 13 lunch in Howard's honour runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cobourg Memorial Temple (412 Victoria St.). Also in his honour, organizers are letting it be known that donations to the food bank would be greatly appreciated.

PORT HOPE — Celebrating 15 years, the Toronto Raptors are having a ticket-drive fundraiser for the benefit of Northumberland Big Sisters Big Brothers.

You can save up to 20% on tickets for four upcoming home games (Jan. 17 vs. the Dallas Mavericks at 12:30 p.m., Jan. 22 vs. the Milwaukee Bucks at 7 p.m., Jan. 31 vs. the Indiana Pacers at 6 p.m. and Feb. 7 vs. the Sacramento Kings at noon). The \$85 group zone seats will go for \$68.20,

and the \$43 balcony seats will go for \$37.20.

Plus, a \$10 donation for each ticket sold (minus tax) will be made to the United Way member agency in your community.

For information on placing your order, call Northumberland Big Sisters Big Brothers communications co-ordinator Sophie Kneisel at 905-885-6422 or 1-888-278-2484.

COBOURG — St. Peter's Anglican Church welcomes celebrated author Mike Barnes Monday afternoon for a talk on his battle with mental illness.

The joint U.S.-Canadian citizen (who lives and writes in Toronto) is the author of seven books, including the novels *Catalogue Raisonne* and *The Syllabus*. He also wrote the short-fiction collection, *Contrary Angel*, and the poetry collections, *Calm Jazz Sea* and *a thaw foretold*. His short-fiction collection, *Aquarium*, won the Danuta Gleed Award.

In his book, *The Lily Pond*, Barnes chronicled his 30-plus years of coping with the destructiveness of an illness that infiltrates thinking, feeling and acting in ways that change the very fabric of identity. The book also detailed the psyche's resources in healing and reknitting that fabric.

Sponsored by the church's Health and Healing Ministry, this lecture is free and open to



ELAINE LEAN PHOTO
Not only was 13-year-old Wyatt Weppler (grandson of Rosella and Jack Kelly of Warkworth) fortunate enough to carry the Olympic Torch Dec. 27 — he also got the chance to hand it off to CBC newsman Peter Mansbridge. Wyatt's aunt Elaine Lean took this picture, which his grandparents will always cherish.

the public.

St. Peter's is located at 240 College St., and the program begins at 2 p.m.

ELIZABETHVILLE — As someone who never experienced a Canadian winter until the age of 21, I have found the best way to get through winter is to embrace it.

In that spirit, the folks at the Ganaraska Regional Conservation Authority are urging you to set aside Jan. 16 for a trip to the magnificent Ganaraska Forest Centre for Family Cross-Country Ski Day — to test your skills on the trails or to learn to ski for the first time.

There are 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. sessions that offer an introduction to skiing, a guided ski through the forest and a warm-up cup of hot chocolate

afterwards. Complimentary ski rentals are included in the \$8-per-person fee.

All participants must be over the age of 10, and all are advised to dress in warm layers. In case of adverse conditions (visit www.grca.on.ca for current ski conditions), the alternate date is Jan. 23.

Organizers are asking that you register in advance in order to help them with their planning. You can do so by calling 905-797-2721.

COBOURG — Yvonne O'Neill and Gail Martin, co-ordinators of the Giving Tree at Northumberland Mall this past holiday season, thank the community for coming through.

"In 2009, 1,469 children throughout Northumberland

county had a brighter Christmas due to the kindness and generosity of their neighbours," Yvonne said.

Since the first Giving Tree was set up in 1989, she added, more than 23,500 children have received gifts.

PORT HOPE — Organist Randy Mills, whose Bach 325 concert series begins today, has called in with program details of specific concerts.

The name of the series celebrates 2010 as the 325th anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach, and Mills will play his entire repertoire of compositions for the organ in 17 Port Hope concerts that take place twice weekly through March 10.

As for what selections might be playing on any given date, there are two web sites that can provide that info.

Wednesday-evening concerts, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Anglican Church (51 King St.), will be detailed at www.stmarksporthope.ca.

Details of Sunday-afternoon concerts, at 2:30 p.m. in the Memorial Chapel at Trinity College School, can be found at www.tcs.on.ca/bach325.

Admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

Around Town appears weekly, and welcomes your news. If you have information of interest, call Cecilia Nasmith at 905-372-0131 ext. 314.