

# What & Where contest winner

Die-hard Toronto Maple Leafs' fan Jeffrey Byrne will get a chance to cheer on his favourite team Thursday after winning *The Independent & Free Press'* What & Where contest.

Byrne, 23, a longtime Georgetown resident who just moved to Toronto two months ago, said he's "looking forward" to seeing his hockey heroes at their final home game of the season Thursday against Tampa Bay.

"It's been a disappointing season," admitted Byrne, who scored two tickets, priced at \$196 each, to the game.

The online contest asked readers to view a photo and tell us what it was and where it was located.

Byrne's name was pulled at random from 35 entrants who correctly identified the picture of the lion, which is part of the cenotaph at Remembrance Park in Georgetown.

"I keep up with things back home by reading *The Independent & Free Press* online almost every day," said Byrne.



Howard Byrne, (right) of Georgetown was happy to collect two tickets to the Toronto Maple Leafs' final home game Thursday for his son Jeffrey, who was the winner of *The Independent & Free Press'* What & Where contest. Jeffrey Byrne correctly identified the lion found on the cenotaph at Remembrance Park (inset). Managing editor John McGhie presented Howard Byrne with the tickets Monday.



Photo by Eamonn Maher

# Welcome Home gala Fundraiser set to aid Haiti kids

By **LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

The Welcome Home Children's Centre Inc. is taking the next big step to help disadvantaged children in Haiti.

The charitable organization operates an orphanage in a rented house in Cabaret, Haiti, which has become home for 12 children since it opened in 2009. Georgetown women Audrey Hoekstra, Camille Otum and Bonnie Morgan are board members of the registered Canadian charity committed to making a difference in the lives of as many children as possible in Haiti—the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

While they are meeting the basic needs of the children who live in the orphanage, the goal has always been to acquire land and build a modern facility capable of accommodating 50 to 75 children.

Hoekstra said they're pleased to announce they have acquired a parcel of land and are embarking on a major building fund drive.

They are kicking off a building fund initiative with a fundraising gala Saturday, April 14 at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in downtown Toronto and are hoping many local people will come and/or donate products of services for an auction or raffle.

Tickets are \$150 each, a portion of which is tax deductible. A table of eight is \$1,200.

For tickets call 905-877-0630, 905-873-9233 or 416-648-0040 or email [audrey.hoekstra@welcomechildren.org](mailto:audrey.hoekstra@welcomechildren.org), [info@welcomechildren.org](mailto:info@welcomechildren.org) or visit [www.welcomechildren.org](http://www.welcomechildren.org). Tickets must be purchased in advance by April 7.

Silent auction items include original artwork by Shirley Deaville, Barb Succo and William Band as well as a silk print from Georgetown Thai Cuisine. To donate items call 905-877-0630 or 905-873-9233.

"We're hoping to start building this year with the help of the gala," said Hoekstra. They would like to raise \$100,000 at the event.

"We are hoping it will give us a real good shot in the arm," said Hoekstra.

Hoekstra said their lease is up on the current home they rent, and the landlord is refusing to renew the lease so they will have to find a temporary shelter while they find the means to build the new orphanage.

"Our operating funding to date comes from our own pockets, the generosity of family and friends as well as from churches and other organizations," said Hoekstra. "We are a group of committed people of ordinary means working with a group of volunteers none of whom receive any pay. All proceeds go directly to the work in Haiti."

She said they have seen the children who are currently living in the orphanage grow and thrive since they moved in.

Once they get the new orphanage built they will be looking for people who would volunteer to live there a month at a time to help the staff with bathing and feeding the children and helping with the laundry.

The goal is to have a mini-farm operating at the orphanage to provide food for the children. They also want a clinic, school and church on site.

"As long as we can grow our own food that will be a big help. The kids will be helping with farming."

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