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Famed Georgetown opera singer named to Order of Canada

By Graeme Frisque
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Governor General David Johnston named internationally renowned opera singer and Georgetown native, Russell Braun, as an Officer to the Order of Canada last week.

Braun, 51, will join two other appointees from Halton Region as part of the class of 2016. In all, 100 members, officers and companions were named to what is considered one of Canada's highest civilian honours by the Governor General on Dec. 30.

Fellow opera singer Michael Schade from Oakville received an honorary appointment for his achievements as a renowned tenor and his contributions to the world of opera.

The Weather Network and MéteoMédia head, Pierre Morissette, another Oakville resident, was also appointed as a Member for his years of leadership in business.

I am delighted to recognize

these new recipients of the Order of Canada in this milestone year, said Johnston in the official announcement. Besides marking Canada's 150th anniversary, 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Order.

The trio from Halton joins nearly 7,000 others from all sectors of Canadian society who have been invested into the Order since its inception in 1967.

One of Canada's highest civilian honours, the Order of Canada recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.

For Braun, music and opera are in the genes. Son of late opera performer Victor Braun, Russell has starred and appeared in several productions over his long career and has won multiple Juno Awards. He has amassed an impressive resume and discography throughout his career and is a world-renowned singer and performer in opera circles.

Continued on page 8

WELCOME TO 2017! It took a couple of months before 2016's first baby to be born at Georgetown Hospital, but 2017's first birth took just a few hours into the New Year to happen. With two obstetricians having been in place at the hospital for several months, births are no longer being redirected away from Georgetown and the Guzman family of Mississauga welcomed Kaitlyn weighing in at 8.59 pounds into the world at 10:06 p.m. Sunday.

Photo by Jon Borgstrom

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