

*'Quote  
unquote'*

*'In the immediate future I want to put everything I can into this series.' — Gary Klutt, NASCAR Canadian Tire Series driver*



The Halton Hills Gymnastics Centre recently held an open house and was presented with a plaque from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for its 2014 grant of \$137,100. Pictured above (from left) are: HHGC head coach Florin Chivu, HHGC board of directors president Michelle Mortimer, board VP Patrick Nellis, Ariana Varas, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, Ruby Boles. Photo by Eamonn Maher

## Halton Hills Gymnastics Centre putting Trillium grant to work

The Halton Hills Gymnastics Centre has big plans for the \$137,100 grant they received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in November of 2014. Samantha Gemmell, one of the Halton-Peel Program Managers with the foundation, met with the HHGC recently to present a plaque to celebrate the two-year grant.

Funding from the grant will enable persons including those with physical disabilities to enjoy a barrier free access to the facility.

It will, additionally, provide a much-needed third washroom, one that is wheelchair accessible and has a change table to accommodate all members.

Notable programs such as the "Men with Autism" will receive additional support and consultation and a new illuminated HHGC street sign is expected to be installed soon.

Dan Stainton, co-ordinator of the Community Living North Halton's Men With Autism program, said the partnership with the HHGC has been in place for the past 14 months has been beneficial to a dozen of its users.

"We at CLNH support approximately 130 residents with various disabilities in a residential environment, but more specifically, we have the 12 gentlemen in our Specialized Supports Division who I work directly with," Stainton said.

"Most of these men have Autism, and what we have been pioneering over the last year is programming where we have been structuring the day right down into 15-minute segments, and keeping the guys actively engaged, which has greatly reduced behaviors, in turn enabling a much improved quality of life for the men. This is where a facility like yours is so valuable to our program because for one hour per week, we can come into a safe environment, where we can use a huge variety of equipment, have fun, and burn off energy."

The HHGC also held an open house to celebrate the arrival of the Trillium grant at its Armstrong Ave. facility, with Pan Am Games silver medalist Maegan Chant of Waterdown dropping by to meet with young local gymnasts.

## Race car driver Gary Klutt revved up about future

By Neil McKenzie-Sutter  
Special to the IFP

Representing Halton Hills, Gary Klutt placed sixth overall at the 2015 NASCAR Canadian Tire Series in terms of overall points.

Klutt achieved this ranking after finishing 11th in the final race of the series, which was held at Kawartha Downs & Speedway near Peterborough last weekend.

The series began in May and the 11 total races were held at multiple racetracks in both Ontario and Quebec, as well as tracks in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and featured more than 50 individual racers.

The 23-year-old Klutt fell just short of breaking the top 5 due to accidents he experienced mid-series, but he and his team still came away from the series with numerous awards, and this is a landmark for Klutt and his team because 2015 is the first year he completed the full NASCAR Canadian Tire Series.

Klutt (pronounced 'Kloot') competed in a few of the Canadian Tire Series races last year, but did not complete the whole circuit.



Halton Hills resident Gary Klutt signs some autographs after a recent NASCAR Canadian Tire Series race. The 23-year-old feels he can improve on his sixth-place overall finish for next year's series. Submitted photo

"The first race that a couple of the guys were at, we won," he said, talking about his pit crew's reaction to their first race together. "A few of those guys, that was the first race they'd ever been to. It was just incredible."

"It's one thing to practice behind the shop every night," Klutt continued. "Until it happened they had no idea how loud and obnoxious it is at the track. We're racing against guys who are professional race car drivers. For some of them, it's their 30th year racing."

Klutt attributes some of the team's success to crew chief John Fletcher. Fletcher has several decades of experience on the race-track, so his role as an anchor for the team was critical this season.

"He's a smart kid, and he sure can drive. That's a pretty good combination," said Fletcher.

"It's been a lot of fun, because he is very capable. He's got a bright future in whatever he decides to do."

Klutt has spent his entire life working with cars at his family's shop, the Legendary Motorcar Company, located on the Fifth Line in southwest Halton Hills.

In addition to racing their own cars, 'Legendary Motorcar' also rents vehicles for customers to race on their own and Klutt became interested in professional stock car racing after one of these customers unexpectedly cancelled at the last minute. This happened when Klutt was 16.

"It just so happened that I fit perfectly in the car," Klutt said about the no-show customer incident. "I hopped in it for one race. I'd only raced go-karts up to that point, but I knew we had potential."

Klutt isn't satisfied with placing sixth, but he's treating 2015 as a training year and he plans on competing in the 2016 series.

"In the immediate future I want to put everything I can into this series," he said.

For updates, check out Klutt's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/garylegendary-motorcar](http://www.facebook.com/garylegendary-motorcar)



COUNTDOWN TO THE  
**RAIDERS**  
NEXT HOME GAME

Sat. Oct 10, 2015  
7:30 pm at Mold-Masters Sports Plax  
**Georgetown Raiders**  
vs.  
**Buffalo Jr. Sabres**

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