

SNAPSHOTS



Len Wassens photo

Our photographer couldn't understand why this coyote couldn't be shooed away from his Halton Hills backyard. Only when the neighbour's cat was spotted and rescued from a nearby tree did the coyote go on his way.

CONTRIBUTED

STUDENTS MAKE CARDS, COLLECT GIFTS FOR SENIORS

Georgetown District High School art and music students hosted an inter-generational celebration at Silvercreek Café in downtown Georgetown. Owner Traci Haqq opened her café for the evening in support of GDHS's art department outreach for local seniors in need.

Art students created original designs that were printed into professional greeting cards by Sherwood Copy in Georgetown. The students then set up art stations throughout the café and invited members of the public and local children to watercolour the cards and write messages for seniors at Mountainview Residence



Sidney Haqq photo

Sydney Patten, a Grade 11 art student at Georgetown District High School, helps six-year-old Ina paint a Christmas card, one of many cards and gifts collected by GDHS students that will be delivered to seniors at local residences.

and the Bennett Health Care Centre.

Students from the music department performed throughout the evening. They also made Secret Santa present tags so members of the community could help provide a simple Christmas gift for seniors.

Anyone wishing to help

can pick up a present tag at Silvercreek Café or Foodstuffs in downtown Georgetown. Wrapped gift items can then be dropped off at Georgetown District High School by Wednesday, Dec. 18. The art students will be delivering the collection of gifts to the seniors' residences.

EVERY EVENT SHOULD BE A SPECIAL EVENT

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Q: My marriage is a mess. My partner cheated and I am so angry and hurt. He says he loves me and I do still love him. We have kids and I know that divorce will impact them too. Is there really any hope that this marriage can be saved?

A: Yes, if you love each other, the marriage can be saved, if you both want it. You will feel anger, betrayal, and hurt. He will feel confused, embarrassed, and ashamed. But you can both get beyond this if you are prepared to be dedicated to saving the marriage. Affairs are like opportunistic illnesses. They find a crack in the relationship and work their way in, growing and infecting and pushing the two of you apart.

I begin from a premise that is different than common thought. I believe that trust does not have to be earned; but it can be lost. You can't prove you haven't done something but you can prove things that you have done. You can show the efforts made to deserve the trust of your loved one. So, beginning from a place of trust—trust that your spouse wants to share his life with you; trust that he does not want to be with anyone else; trust that you played a part in the feelings of abandonment your partner felt. You each must commit to certain tasks. Your spouse must commit to ending the affair. He cannot 'be a friend' and try to help the other party out. He cannot maintain any messaging whether texts, phone calls or any other forms of communication. You must not ask for or listen to details of the affair. What they did or how they did it is of no relevance to you. You are just punishing yourself and there is no benefit to knowing.

You both must learn to communicate more effectively. That is where I come in. Although communication can sound simple, it can also be very difficult, but marriages can be saved after an affair and I have seen it happen many times.

This is a time of year when stress can push people to doing things they may not do otherwise. Affairs are often symptoms of other issues. Now is the time to improve communication styles and clear up indiscretions. Start the New Year with a better and stronger family unit. Make the New Year one of renewal and growth.

I wish you joy and peace and new beginnings. Happy Holidays to you and yours.

"HELPING YOU HELP YOURSELF"

Elayne Tanner Social Work Professional Corporation