

Oakville Roundup

BY ALLISON DEMPSEY

West Nile damages sought

A former Oakville resident is among at least 40 people suing the Ontario government over the West Nile virus. Sherrill Southern, now residing in British Columbia, is seeking \$1.2 million in damages. The lawsuits are seeking a total \$75 million in damages. Southern claims a mosquito bit her while at a pool party in Mississauga on Aug. 10, 2002. She developed symptoms and was incorrectly diagnosed with encephalitis. She was undergoing treatment for breast cancer at the time.

GO Station facelift a go

The Bronte GO Station is receiving a \$780,000 upgrade in an attempt to lure more commuters away from their cars. The station building, located at 2104 Wycroft Rd. (at South Service Road) was originally constructed in 1977. It currently serves about 3,600 passengers on a total 53 east and westbound trains daily. It is the sixth busiest station, with Oakville Station said to be the busiest with 11,000 daily riders. The Bronte Station has 1,700 parking spaces and serves the Lakeshore West GO train and bus service that runs between Hamilton and Toronto's Union Station, through Burlington, Oakville and Mississauga. Planned renovations include the ticket

sales area, a new public communications system and improved washrooms.

One month before the Bell Canadian Open

The 2004 Bell Canadian Open is less than a month away, running from September 6 to 12 at the Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville. After a 10-year absence, Phil Mickelson has confirmed that he plans to return for the 100th anniversary of the Open. Also confirming his intention to play is Fiji's only world-class golfer Vijay Singh. Singh and Mickelson are the top two earners thus far this year. 2003 Masters Champion Mike Weir along with David Morland IV, and 2004 Cialis Western Open champion Stephen Ames will also be playing. Nine previous Bell Canadian Open champs will also return: Billy Andrade ('98), David Frost ('93), Dudley Hart ('96), Steve Jones ('89, '97), Mark O'Meara ('95), Nick Price ('91, '94), John Rollins ('02), Scott Verplank ('01) and defending champion Bob Tway ('03). Limited tickets still remain for all tournament events.

Plans for shared arts space moving forward

An arts centre that provides a space where musicians and artists can work and

grow and display together is taking shape, thanks to some dedicated volunteers in Oakville. MASS (Music and Art Shared Space) envisions a large, single-level exhibit hall with flexible space that can be reconfigured to meet the performing, exhibit or work area needs of any number of groups. As local groups are forced out of the community due to lack of space, art group memberships are increasing at a rate of 10 percent a year. For more information visit www.musicartsharingspace.ca

The truth about cats and dogs

The Oakville and District Humane Society is overrun with animals – and needs help from the public. There are more than 200 cats and 50 dogs in the building, plus a variety of rabbits and other small animals that need a nurturing, permanent home. The shelter, located at 445 Cornwall Rd., is coping with one of its most difficult summers ever with an unusually low claim rate for lost cats and dogs. More than half of the 15 full-time staff members are taking home orphaned kittens each night to bottle feed them around the clock. For more information call (905) 845-1551; or visit www.oakvillehumane.ca

Athens bound

Oakville sprint kayaker Adam Van Koeverden earned his first Olympic berth by dominating in the K-1 1000 and K-1 500. The 22-year-old began training at the age of 13, and two years later won the Ontario Team Trials. Van Koeverden, who finished second in Male Athlete of the Year at the 2004 Canadian Sports Awards, discovered his gift for kayaking at the Burloak Canoe Club.

Where have all the flowers gone?

The Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) could close after the summer season if it doesn't receive another \$1.7 million annually from the province. It currently receives \$1.6 million a year from the Ministry of Culture, plus \$575,000 annually from Halton and \$578,000 a year from Hamilton. There have been \$600,000 in staff cutbacks, scaling back the RBG Arboretum operations, and cutting back the science library. The Gardens has 110 employees and 2,700 acres of property in Burlington, Hamilton and Dundas, including conservation and nature lands, trails and gardens. The operation draws 500,000 visitors annually and is the largest tourist attraction between Toronto and Niagara Falls.

What's On in Oakville

Festival of Classics' Salt-Water Moon

by D. French
Until Aug 28, 8 p.m.,
Monday to Saturday
Bronte Harbour's
Butterfly Park
(905) 815-2021
\$20

Three Generations, One Show

J. Estall, K. Estall, L. Estall
August 21 to September 4
Sovereign House,
7 West River St., Bronte
(905) 845-2157
A group show featuring internationally distributed artist Lyn Estall, her son and granddaughter, who while still pre-school-aged is already following in the family footsteps.

Oakville's Black History Exhibit until September 6

Learn all about Oakville's role in the Underground Railroad. For many escaped slaves, the Oakville Harbour represented their first view of Canada and realized dream of new found freedom.

Cost: Regular admission.
Oakville Museum is open during the summer Tuesdays to Thursdays 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Fridays 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., and weekends 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Oakville Museum is located in downtown Oakville at 8 Navy St., just south of Lakeshore Road. Call (905) 338-4400; or visit www.oakvillemuseum.com.

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