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News

Digest

Norval woman killed

A 19-year-old Norval woman is dead after her car collided with an empty school bus Friday afternoon, June 23. Marianne Guiomar died at the scene, the intersection of Chinguacousy Rd. and Queen St. in Brampton. Peel police say Guiomar drove through a red light on Queen St. and crashed into the bus, which was travelling south on Chinguacousy Rd. on a green light. The bus rolled onto its side in the southwest ditch. The bus driver, a 67-year-old Brampton man, suffered minor injuries and was treated and released at Peel Memorial Hospital. There were no children on the bus at the time of the crash.

Search continues

At press time Friday police were still searching for 75-year-old James Thomson. The Milton man hadn't returned from a walk which began at noon, Monday.



JAMES THOMSON

Thomson suffers from Alzheimers and Parkinson disease and was walking his beagle. Halton Regional Police have been searching the Moffat area on foot and with their K-9 unit, while the OPP brought in a helicopter.

It's possible Thomson may have accepted a ride with a motorist. Police are also asking local residents to look in the buildings on their property.

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T'is the season...

Kathy Shier (left) and Dianne Burt have been busy these past couple of weeks as they work at Greig's farm on 15 Sideroad, picking strawberries. The berries have been plentiful this year, especially since the recent showers.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Neighbors rally to help Laidlaws

By JANET BAINE
 Staff writer

There has been a tremendous outpouring of help from friends, neighbors and other farmers for the Laidlaw family after their dairy barn was consumed by fire Tuesday morning.

"It hasn't devastated us as a family, it's brought us closer together," said Barb Laidlaw. "We have a pretty strong faith. We are praying, and it's amazing how our prayers have been answered."

The 100-head dairy farm on Heritage Rd. is owned and operated by Gord and Rosemarie Laidlaw and their two sons and families (Wayne and Debbie and Terry and Barb). Luckily the cattle were all out in the field at the time. However, there were 16 calves in the barn and about 10 of these didn't survive, Barb Laidlaw said.

"There's a house on either side of the barn, and because of the way the wind was blowing the firefighters had to work to save one of the houses. The barn was gone already anyway," she said.

The Brampton Fire Department responded, and a spokesperson reported the cause as spontaneous ignition in the hay.

It was the son of hired man, Allan Savage, who first noticed the barn was on fire when he pulled in the laneway at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, Laidlaw said. By 2:30 a.m. neighbors and friends had already arrived to help. Milking time is 5:30 a.m. and the

cows needed to be transported to three nearby farms where they could be milked.

For now, 35 cows are at a Fifth Line (Halton Hills) barn, which is fully equipped as a dairy operation. The family has rented the facility for the next few months.

While the family has insurance, it won't cover all their costs.

A trust fund has been set up by their church, Maple Ave. Baptist Church, said Mark Krapez. The number is 873-9211.

Donations can also be made to the fund at the Bank of Montreal at Georgetown Marketplace (877-5141).

Plenty of fireworks

The Acton Firefighters Association is set to light up the sky with their annual fireworks display tonight (Sunday), beginning at dark.

The pyrotechnics are set off at the end of Elmore Drive and rain down over Prospect Park.

According to firefighters the best place to view the show is at the Acton Legion on Wright Avenue or inside the park.

It costs the firefighters \$5,000 to put on the half-hour, neck-straining spectacle.

Admission is free but collection boxes are set up at both the Legion and the park.

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