

Weekender

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Crash victim 'very fortunate'

By ALAN SHACKLETON

A young West German visitor to Uxbridge owes her life to the sharp eyes and quick-thinking of Stouffville's Gary Henry.

Claudia Wesholowski, 21, visiting family in the Uxbridge area is reported in fair condition at St. Michael's Hospital following a car accident late Thursday afternoon.

Claudia lost control of her Volkswagen Rabbit on the Uxbridge-Pickering Townline Road. It careened down a 15-foot slope into a wooded area of the Altona Road.

Travelling in the same direction a few minutes later, Gary Henry, returning home from work with his father Ed (an employee with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Building Department), noticed skid marks.

"There were clouds of dust in front of me for quite a ways," Gary said. "Then I saw the tire marks, I figured we better stop and take a look."

What they found was a wrecked car at the bottom of the embankment and an injured driver lying nearby.

Whitchurch-Stouffville and Claremont firefighters responded. The injured woman was taken to Uxbridge Cottage Hospital and then transferred by air ambulance to St. Michael's.

"It could have been a lot worse, she was very fortunate," Gary said. "We're happy we happened along and could help."



Twice-burned fire-eater to headline magic show

Look easy? Don't try it. Fire-eating can be dangerous.

No one knows this better than 26-year-old Ashley Vann. Twice she's been badly burned.

Ashley is a headliner in the 6th annual Stouffville Magic Festival Oct. 30 and 31 at the High School. Performance times are 8 p.m., Oct. 30, and 4 p.m., Oct. 31. In addition, there will be children's shows at the Library, (Oct. 30) and in Latham Hall, (Oct. 31).

Clowns, magicians and jugglers will perform on Main Street, Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lovely Ashley suffered the burns while experimenting at home. Nothing so serious has ever occurred on stage.

"My eyebrows and hair were singed," she recalls, "I was unable to work for two weeks."

Both times, she smothered the flames with a wet cloth.

Ashley's been 'eating fire' seven years. Following the Festival here, she leaves on a tour to Canada's East Coast.

"It takes years of practice," Ashley explains. "It's a part usually played by men." She describes her routine as "very spectacular."

In addition to her role as a fire-eater, Ashley is Canada's only female illusionist. She teams up with husband Wes and four vivacious dancers.

The Festival, described by co-producer Dave Houston as "a show for the whole family" has an admission charge of \$10 adult and \$5 children.

Tickets are available at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Centre and the Public Library.

Ah...applefest!

It's Applefest at Markham Museum today. In getting ready for a cider-thirsty crowd, Elgin Malcolm (left) and Murray Reesor pour cooked apples into a strainer to collect the cider and separate the pulp. The apple pulp is used to make apple butter, also available at Applefest. The museum is located on Main Street in Markham north of 16th Ave.

—Sjoerd Witteveen

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