

# Matthew's wine as perfect as his family

The first thing I noticed was the teeth. They belong in a milk commercial.

Meeting Matthew and Stephanie Passafiume was like a drink of spring water. They're both good looking.

Their eyes twinkle, their skin is flawless and their cheeks are rosy red. Mother Nature must have been in a good mood when she created them.

The Passafiumes are in love and, all signals indicate, they have a future worth following. As a bonus, they have a perfect baby.

My grandmother would have said this about the Passafiumes, "They're well bred, well raised and given time, they'll be well to do. Honest as the day is long, they'll never put on airs."

A few weeks ago, the owners of Applewood Farm Winery, entered one of their creations in an international wine competition. Matthew's entry won the gold award in the dessert wine category.

Matthew grew up on the 87-acre farm in Whitchurch-Stouffville, went off to University of Guelph to earn a science degree and majored in biology before returning to the farm.

Matthew had a two-fold mission. He wanted to explore wine making and revisit a girl who lived down the way.

Soon Matthew married the neighbour's daughter and soon he was making some excellent wine. (I abstain from alcohol. Others tell me his product is wonderful.)

Taking the fruits from the family



Joan Ransberry

farm, Matthew, who's only 27, has created 12 marketable wines.

Last year the Passafiumes, convinced there is a living in wine making, built a winery and retail operation on their McCowan Road property.

Using authentic barn boards, Matthew created the wine house, complete with a tasting bar. The bar is as stylish as the displays.

It all paid off last week when he was given the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce award for entrepreneur of the year. He accepted the honour with grace.

People with a nose for something special have been watching Applewood Farm Winery take shape. Chamber president Helene Johnson has been inside the business loop for years. She knows what will fly and what won't. Applewood Farm Winery is in flight.

Soon Matthew and Stephanie will launch yet another wine. Elora's Harvest, named after their daughter, promises to be a winner.

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## A TOAST TO TOASTMASTER TEENS



Twenty Markham District High School students recently celebrated completing the Toastmasters Youth Leadership Training Program. The program, which helps participants speak in both official languages, was led by Cindy Stradling and Sharrad Kattakar, who represent the Markham branch of Toastmasters International.

If you or your children have trouble breathing, Zabet would like you to consult your doctor or call the Asthma Society of Canada at 1-800-787-3880 to find out more about asthma and its treatments. You'll breathe a little easier.

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Tribune



### Holiday Waste Collection Schedule

Note the following change to Markham Waste Management's Collection Schedule for Good Friday:

Friday, April 13th (Area D) ⇒ Saturday, April 14th

Please have your waste and recyclables curbside by 7:00 a.m. but no earlier than 7:00 p.m. the night before.

For more information, call Markham's Waste Management Customer Service Line at 905-415-7535, check out our website or email wastemgt@city.markham.on.ca

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UNIROYAL® TIGER PAW® ASC™ P205/70R15 <b>\$77.95</b> One Tire FITS MOST '92-'98 TRANS SPORTS AND LUMINA VANS	UNIROYAL® TIGER PAW® ASC™ P205/70R15 <b>\$149.95</b> Two Tires	LAREDO® AWP™ P235/75R15 <b>\$108.95</b> One Tire FITS MOST '95-'00 SILVERADOS, SIERRAS, S-10s AND SONOMAS	LAREDO® AWP™ P235/75R15 <b>\$209.95</b> Two Tires

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