

# Racer continues to improve

Whitchurch-Stouffville race driver Ashley Taws, seriously injured in a car accident in Holland Landing on Dec. 7, is taking the slow route to recovery. A few days ago, the 19-year-old Canadian Formula Ford rookie of the year took a few

steps with a walker. "It's a start to a very long and difficult road to recovery," said Nichole Lascell-Hornig, Ms Taws' friend and spokesperson for Aim Autosports. Ms Taws was a passenger in a car involved in a head-on collision.

She was airlifted to St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto with multiple fractures to her back, internal injuries and a crushed aorta leading to her legs. It's not know if Ms Taws will make it home for the holidays. —Joan Ransberry

# Kyoto Protocol creates environmental jobs

Part 3 in a series on how the Kyoto accord affects the lives of York residents

BY MIKE ADLER  
Staff Writer

If the Kyoto Protocol is supposed to cost Canadians jobs and opportunities, why is it helping Jennifer Smith find both? The King Township woman was one of six people training in Newmarket this month to be energy auditors, ground-floor entrepreneurs in an expanding industry Canada will need to meet its Kyoto commitments.

"There will be a need for this sort of job more and more," said Ms Smith, 29, who has worked on area horse farms since graduating from high school.

Early last month, she and other interns at Windfall Ecoworks started assisting auditors testing homes with the federal EnerGuide for Houses energy efficiency program, expecting to become auditors themselves.

"I will be an independent sub-contractor with my own business," Ms Smith explained.

Mojgan Allahdini, for a decade unable to find a job where she could use her environmental science expertise, was hired in October by the Town of Newmarket. Ms Allahdini inventories the output of greenhouse gases, from all

municipal buildings, vehicles and street lighting.

The Richmond Hill resident sees the temporary post as the beginning of a new career. "It gives me enough experience for the upcoming jobs that will be in the market."

Tracey Forrest recently became York Region's first manager of energy management. Like Ms Allahdini and Ms Smith, she believes she owes her job partly to Kyoto, although Ms Forrest speculated rising energy costs were also a factor.

"There's a variety of drivers. Kyoto is the primary driver when you're looking at expertise on clean, green energy or energy efficiency," she said.

When Prime Minister Jean Chretien ratified the protocol this week, he committed Canada to cut its climate changing greenhouse gas emissions to 6 per cent below 1990 levels by 2012.

That pledge will give people more security to consider careers in energy management, said Ms Forrest, an environmental chemical engineer who has worked for United States consulting firms.

Some job losses are expected. One federal worst-case estimate is 244,000 jobs, while the Alberta government and one national manufacturing group insist Kyoto will kill at least 450,000.

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