

Being blown out



Photo by Chris Simon

Several centimetres of snow fell in the Innisfil region over the weekend. At times, the road conditions were so poor that snowplows were taken off their routes, and South Simcoe Police advised residents to stay home. Police had difficulty responding to the many motor vehicle accidents reported Saturday. The OPP closed

down County Road 89 westbound from Highway 400 to Alliston, while South Simcoe Police responded to collisions on County Road 4 at Concession Road 13 in Bradford West Gwillimbury, and County Road 27 at Concession Road 3 in Innisfil. Rain and warmer temperatures are expected this weekend.

Landowners targeted by new source water plans

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has developed a drinking water protection program for landowners who live near municipal drinking water sources.

Through this program, property owners are being made aware of how actions on their own properties can affect the water we all depend on to be clean and safe for our families.

The program, operated by the LSRCA with funding by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, is part of the Drinking Water Source Protection Planning that resulted from the Walkerton inquiry. It is part of a "multiple barrier approach" to protecting the quality of drinking water, not only at treatment but also at its source.

"People who own property near a municipal well or intake are the first line of defense," said Don Goodyear, the LSRCA's manager of source protection planning.

"Contaminants on their properties can invade the ground water that is the municipal supply for thousands of residents."

In the first year, the public

education effort is targeted to property owners closest to the wells and intakes. The LSRCA has made direct mail contact with about 1,200 landowners who own property near the 74 municipal wells and intakes.

"We believe property owners want to know what they can do to help protect our drinking water," Goodyear said. "In addition to the information we've provided to their homes, we're inviting these residents to public workshops in their local areas so they can understand how to avoid some of the primary causes of drinking water contamination."

These causes include harmful toxins such as chemicals and septic spillage, as well as private wells that give pollutants a direct conduit to the water table.

The public workshops will feature speakers from the LSRCA, the local health unit, staff from the local and regional governments and non-local government groups.

For more information on the program, visit www.our-watershed.ca or call 905-895-1281.

Crime Stoppers racing for funds in May

By Chris Simon

Buy a blanket, support Crime Stoppers.

On May 3, Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka will host a race night at Georgian Downs, with proceeds raised benefitting the organization's various crime fighting initiatives.

Residents and businesses are being asked to help raise funds in several ways. Horse blankets can be sponsored for \$325 in one of the 10 races scheduled, and tickets

for the event can be purchased for \$40.

Door prize donations will also be accepted, said Barb Baguley, director of Crime Stoppers' South Simcoe Committee.

"So far, we've sold two (blankets), the earlier people get their sponsorships in, they can choose a race," she said.

"We're looking for people in the community who might be interested, obviously businesses in the South Simcoe community, but any-

where is certainly welcome to do a sponsorship. It's good for the company, and it's good for Crime Stoppers."

Blankets will be bordered with the sponsoring company's name, and participants will be invited into the winner's circle for a photograph with the winning horse, owner and jockey.

Companies will also be acknowledged for donating door prizes, said Baguley.

"The blankets that can be sponsored are awarded to the winning horse of each race

and taken into other race-tracks and hung in stables. It gives companies that sponsor an opportunity to have their name taken places they normally wouldn't," she said. "It's a way to be part of the community. It's a way to reach a huge amount of people, have fun and hopefully raise money for Crime Stoppers."

Tickets for the event include a buffet dinner, free racing program and a ticket for the door prize draws. The event promises to be enter-

taining, and will help support a good cause, said Baguley.

"It's an opportunity for fundraising and also for showcasing the sponsor's company," she said. "It makes a nice evening all around."

Baguley says the organization hosts several fundraising events throughout the year. However, this will be the first race night hosted by Crime Stoppers at Georgian Downs.

"Crime Stoppers is look-

ing to raise the profile of the work they do in the community, Georgian Downs offers a huge venue and large attendance," she said. "There will be an information table and an opportunity to chat with people and answer a few questions."

Crime Stoppers is a registered, non-profit charitable organization that works with the police, media and residents to make local communities safe.

For more information, call Baguley at 458-9358.

Midland will host 42nd Hooking Craft Guild convention this May

It's time to get hooked in Midland this May.

The Ontario Hooking Craft Guild will be hosting their 42nd annual meeting and convention on May 2, 3, and 4.

An exhibit of hooked rugs from across the province will be open to the public on Sunday May 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre.

Admission is \$5 per person. This year's theme is entitled Hooked on History, and there will be several antique rugs on display, as well as new rugs created with a history theme. These are not

just your grandmother's hooked rugs; there will be modern hooked items, too, such as pillows, purses and wearable art. The public is encouraged to come and see how this heritage craft has

evolved over the years.

In addition to the rug display, there will be several vendors on-site selling rug hooking supplies. Come and meet the local rug hooking group. The Ontario Hooking

Craft Guild (OHCG) is a not-for-profit organization that promotes and preserves the craft of traditional rug hooking in Ontario. For more information, call 835-7589.