

localnews

■ **ART:** Benefactor program preview runs today to March 12 at the MacLaren Art Centre



MARK WANZEL The Barrie Examiner

Sheila Delaney, co-director of development at the MacLaren Art Centre, is part of the team involved in the upcoming Preview-Benefactor Member Art Exchange. More than 100 pieces of artwork will be on display starting today through to March 12 in the centre's Carnegie Room. For more information about the program and exhibit, visit www.maclarenart.com.

Looking for a good home

BY SUSAN DOOLAN

Sheila Delaney has always loved art. So much so that when she graduated from university she spent her first paycheque on a painting.

She is not an artist, however. Nor does she have any aspiration for an artistic career.

"I've always had a huge love affair with art," said Delaney, adding that her mother was an artist. "To me, when you fall in love with a piece of art, it becomes a part of your home."

Nowadays, people who are starting out in their careers have the opportunity to have a work of art in their home without having to purchase it.

The MacLaren Art Centre is introducing a new junior benefactor program geared to the under-40 crowd.

It runs in conjunction with its regular benefactor membership, a unique program that matches art to people for a dollar a day.

Even works by well-known

artists are up for grabs.

Barrie has the opportunity to see all of the paintings and sculptures that are available during a two-week preview starting today.

The secret to acquiring the piece you want, said Delaney, who is organizing the event, is to check out the art in advance and make a note of your top five favourite pieces.

That way, when your name is drawn during a benefactor evening, and you're asked to choose one of around 300 works of art, you're ready to go. Then, one of your favourites is yours to enjoy for a year.

The benefits of becoming a member in the program also include other perks, such as an invitation to an exclusive artists talk in the fall, recognition, a significant tax receipt and a family membership to the art gallery.

The program has been growing steadily since its inception in 1995, and last year attracted a record number of members — 140.

The gallery is hoping that number will grow again this year.

It draws a mix of individuals to business people looking to decorate their offices. People choose a work of art for different reasons, too. Some look for a piece to suit a room, while others may follow a particular artist and his or her work and some just connect to art.

"It just increases your whole acceptance of art," Delaney said. "It's a real learning and growing experience with your taste. Just because your name is not called at the beginning doesn't mean you don't get the painting you like because taste varies so much."

There are around 165 artists, ranging from Georgian College graduates to well-known names. Many give more than one piece of art which allows for lots of selection — even for those who become a member after the selection date.

Art rotates annually, so there are always new pieces and new artists coming into the program.

Most of the art is valued at more than \$365, but it can also range up to \$6,000. Around 25 per cent are sold each year.

"It's good for beginning people to set up a household and/or businesses, new offices to be part of the program and have outstanding art in their office," Delaney said. "It's a good way to make your place look good for not a lot of money (and it's) good for the artists to get exposure out in the community."

Preview the art from today to March 12 at the MacLaren Art Centre. Selection takes place at a benefactor evening Thursday, March 12, at 7 p.m. Registration is required in advance.

The cost of the program is \$365 for a membership, or \$265 for junior benefactors — tax receipts are for \$300 and \$200.

All money raised goes to education programming and exhibitions. For more information, call 721-9696.

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■ **CITY COUNCIL:** Development project irks residents

Protected lands a buffer to Sandy Hollow landfill

FROM PAGE A1

"It would represent a prime example of urban sprawl that contains little merit and does not meet many of the province's and city's smart growth criteria," he said in a letter to the city.

Linseman also said this property contains a significant amount of forested land, and notes it functions as a high-quality reservoir for regional plant and bird species in Barrie.

He says the city's Official Plan (OP), which needs to be changed to allow this development, states that any redesignation of environmentally protected lands 'should be discouraged,' and that significant woodland areas are to be protected.

Linseman also notes that this land is a buffer to Sandy Hollow landfill, and has been during his 20 years as a Barrie resident.

The Jones Consulting Group, which will make the presentation for AGC at tonight's public meeting, says the Official Plan and zoning changes are consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement and Places to Grow.

The latter document facilitates and promotes intensification,

On The Agenda

- City council will consider final approval of a ban on train whistling at three GO Transit level crossings in Barrie — at Maplevue Drive East, Little Avenue and Minet's Point Road.

- Councillors will consider a request of \$5 million in funding for Georgian College's proposed Centre for Health and Wellness, which carries a \$65.5-million price tag.

- Final approval to apply for federal funding to pay for an outdoor artificial ice rink will be considered by council. Funding would be on a 50/50 basis between the city and Ottawa. Capital costs for the rink could be almost \$1.6 million.

and plans for a mix of housing in complete communities.

A public meeting is one of the first phases of Barrie's planning process. Once held, feedback to the application goes to city planning staff, which will write a report with recommendations to Barrie councillors.

Tonight's public meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.

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■ **COMMUNITY:** Cleaning up shopping carts

Cart-dumping bylaw to be considered by council

FROM PAGE A1

"I don't think this motion will meet any resistance from my fellow councillors," Jackson said. "But the solution has to be fair to everyone. If it isn't, then I won't support it."

Jackson said he knows of at least five other municipalities that have passed bylaws to prevent this issue.

"Some have tried to get the city to pick carts up and charge a delivery fee back to the stores," he said. "Others have a fine to punish the people who take them off the property and dump them."

"There are also devices that can actually lock up the cart's tires once they hit the edge of the parking lot," he added. "I want people to start thinking about ways to enforce this, because these carts aren't cheap. Each one costs about \$200."

No Frills on Blake Street charges 25 cents to use a shopping cart, which the shopper gets back when the cart is returned. Jackson said that's another idea worth investigating.

Christensen has her own idea of how to correct the problem.



KEVIN LAMB The Barrie Examiner

A wayward shopping cart lies in Kidd's Creek, yesterday.

"My bottom line is I think the businesses that own the carts should be responsible for coming to pick them up," she said. "They should pay attention to who's taking them off the property. Do they not care about how many of them they lose?"

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■ **FIRE:** Severn cottage destroyed in blaze

Owners planned to rebuild cottage: neighbour

FROM PAGE A1

"Thankfully there's a little bit of a breeze blowing," Molloy said. "We were able to protect that side and keep it from spreading."

In half an hour, firefighters had the blaze under control, but the small building was already

destroyed, he said.

No one was on scene when Molloy arrived, but Coyle said the owner was on the property a short time before the fire broke out.

"The owners of the property were up here for a couple of hours this morning cutting trees down, which they normally do,"

he said.

Coyle said the owners did not live in the cottage and were planning on destroying it to build a home in its place.

"I think they are planning on building it this year," he said.

The older age of the cottage had firefighters concerned of asbestos.

Firefighters were on scene for several hours shifting through the rubble and extinguishing hot spots, Molloy said, adding it may be hard to find a cause with the extensive damage.

"We are certainly going to try and determine what the cause was, but sometimes it's difficult to determine," he said.

■ **HEALTH**

Canada must stay a medical pioneer

Health care has been a consistent focus of mine since losing my grandfather, Walter Brown, to cancer years ago.

The pain of losing such a close loved one leaves a mark on a young person. The mark it left on me was a determined curiosity in the war against disease and the question of whether we were doing enough as a society in that battle.

As a member of the health committee, associations frequently come to me and ask for my recommendation that they receive greater funding.

They explain how close they are to real progress if only they could get a little extra help.

Unfortunately, enough funding is not always granted in spite of our committee's best efforts. Canada will never have the largest economy in the world or the largest population, but as a diverse and compassionate nation, I believe health research is an area where Canada wants to help make the world a better place and punch beyond our weight in numbers.

In the early 1920s, Frederick Banting's experiments helped discover insulin.

This was hailed as one of the most significant advances in medicine at the time, and insulin was put into mass production in a mere matter of months.

Almost immediately it began to extend the lives of millions of people worldwide. Nearly 90 years later, I fear Canada may not be the leader in health research that it once was.

If I wrote last month's budget speech, I would have added an additional paragraph committing Canada to be the world per capita leader in medical research funding.

The 2009 budget for the U.S. National Institutes of Health is



Patrick Brown ON THE HILL

\$39 billion, including a \$10 billion increase over last year.

The Canadian Institutes for Health Research budget will be about \$800 million, plus \$120 million for Canada Research Chairs.

The U.S. government is making almost five times the per capita commitment for biomedical research that Canada's is.

Derek Walton, a long time Barrie resident, suffers from ALS. It saddens me that I can not tell him his country is doing everything it can to fund research to find a cure to ALS.

Barrie resident Sydney Grace suffers from juvenile diabetes. It is not fair she has to endure this affliction and it is a shame that we can not lessen her burden.

My grandmother, Edna Tascona, unfailingly volunteered for decades at the old Royal Victoria Hospital and Grove Park Home.

For the past six years, she has suffered through dementia that has ravaged her mind and her memory.

Thousands of Canadians are in the same unfortunate position as Derek, Rebecca and Edna.

Past generations found penicillin, they cured polio and they developed vaccines that saved millions of future lives.

I ask myself what will generations 90 years from now see as our contributions to the health of their citizens?

I hope their opinion of us will be as high as the honour we reserve for those medical pioneers of the past who helped make our lives better today.

Patrick Brown is MP for Barrie

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FROST NIXON (PG) FRI-SUN 1:15 & 9:15 MON-THURS 9:15	PINK PANTHER (PG) DAILY 4:45
LEMON TREE (PG) WED., MAR. 4 TH 4:00, 7:00 & 9:00	HE'S JUST NOT INTO YOU (14A) FRI-SUN 12:50, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00 MON-THURS 6:15, 9:00
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (14A) (NO PASSES) FRI-SUN 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00 & 9:25 MON-THURS 4:40, 7:00 & 9:25	CORALINE (PG) FRI-SUN 12:05, 2:15 & 4:30 MON-THURS 6:15 & 9:00
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) FRI-SUN 12:10, 2:25, 4:45, 6:55, 9:30 MON-THURS 4:45, 6:55, 9:30	TAKEN (14A) FRI-SUN 7:05 & 9:10 MON-THURS 7:05 & 9:10
FRIDAY THE 13TH (18A) (NO PASSES) NIGHTLY 6:40 & 9:15	HOTEL FOR DOGS (G) FRI-SUN 12:00, 2:10 & 4:15 MON-THURS 4:15
	PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG) FRI-SUN 12:30, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 9:15 MON-THURS 4:35, 6:40, 9:15