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Dishonour to Canada

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See page 3



Empty Bowls feed empty bellies

Local potter serves up one-of-a-
kind bowls and soup for charity.

See page 35

Athlete of week

See who got Scoop'd in this
week's Athlete of the Week.

See page 41

AT A GLANCE

News.....	3
Editorial.....	6
Days of Yore.....	7
Sports & Leisure.....	40
Classifieds.....	44



Taryn Petzold haunts the corn maze at Dixie Orchards in Caledon last Saturday night. Austen Kent

The haunting of Dixie Orchards

By Austen Kent
Special to The Enterprise

A traditional family-friendly farm took a turn for the macabre Saturday night (Oct 24) as local ghouls and ghosts descended upon the seasonal classic corn maze at Dixie Orchards.

The haunting began in earnest at 7 p.m. not long after the sun had set completely, abandoning hapless maze runners with little more than the dim illumination of misted moonlight to show their way.

Paul and Lynette Gray, proud owners of the Inglewood orchard, typically don't summon the undead to the property they've operated out of for the past 10 years, but on this rainy and perhaps unseasonably dreary evening, the scares were for a good cause.

"Taryn [Petzold] may have caught Paul at a moment of weakness," said Lynette. "Taryn is one of the girls on the team who works here with us."

Petzold, a goaltender for the Orangeville Tigers

Midget A women's team by day – the team for which the fundraiser was held – spent the evening fully attired in the heart of the maze, staring and cackling ominously at passersby brave enough to approach her outpost in the name of free candy.

"The goal of the fundraiser is to raise money for the team to go to a tournament in B.C.," said Petzold, kind enough to take a break from horrifying small children to speak with *The Enterprise*. "It's our last year of hockey and we wanted to do something good for the team."

Citing the level of competition out west as one of their driving motivators, the Tigers rounded up their roster of players and proud supporters to deck out the eight-acre maze with all of the thrills and scares one would generally expect from a spooky corn field punctuated by the faint sound of a whirring chainsaw off in the distance.

Continued on page 14 »

Caledon man's long ambulance wait leads to GPS changes

By Matthew Strader
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Problem solved, said Dave Wakely, president of the Peel Paramedic Union after *The Enterprise* told the story of Bob Shapton and his wait for an ambulance in the Caledon Hills.

Shapton lives on Escarpment Sideroad, in Caledon's rural area. At the beginning of August, he contacted *The Enterprise* to tell the newspaper about a scary 25 to 30 minutes he experienced during a mild stroke scare. Convinced he was in trouble, Shapton and his wife contacted ambulance dispatchers to get him to help.

Twenty-five to 30 minutes later a Peel Paramedic unit showed up at his front door.

The curious thing was they had come from Caledon Village – approximately five minutes from the Shapton home.

"They were both from Toronto and quite unfamiliar with the area," he said. "When I asked them what had taken so long for them to get from Caledon Village to my house, they told me their GPS had directed them all over the place, up and down Airport Road..."

Continued on page 13 »

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Low tech solution could solve high tech problem: resident

Continued from page 1

"... and it had simply taken them awhile to get proper directions."

Shapton was shocked, and a further examination after he was feeling better exposed deeper issues. Shapton, utilizing his own GPS units, was surprised to find Caledon suffers from 'dead zones' where GPS signals simply don't work. His own testing has shown that there are some areas in close proximity to Caledon's emergency services, even the parking lot of one Shapton has tested himself, that don't get required signals.

Brad Bowie, the community relations officer for Peel Paramedic Service, said at the time there are paramedics who work in towns they don't live in, the same as any occupation, and they can't avoid that. But every effort is made to ensure paramedics will be able to reach their calls as quickly as they can.

"All paramedics within Peel Regional Paramedic Services are provided with information on the function of the GPS, how to refer to map books if required and request assistance of the dispatch centre when necessary."

According to Wakely though, the union has been complaining about outdated systems and information for months. The positive, he said, is those complaints have finally been heard and answered.

Wakely contacted *The Enterprise* and said Shapton's story was relevant and on the heels of it the union fired off its own press release on October 16.

"The Paramedic Union has repeatedly told management that the maps in the GPS units are unacceptably out of date," the release read.

"Paramedics are experts at providing complex pre-hospital medical care, but we can't provide that care if we don't know where the patient is," Wakely said.

Now, coverage of Shapton's event, as well as the pressure put on by the paramedic union with their release, has resulted in change Wakely reported.

"I am happy to report the issue is resolved and thanks to the public scrutiny I doubt the management has any intention of allowing this to happen again," Wakely said.

Updated GPS programs and units have been provided.

Wakely said the union will continue to monitor the issue and hold management to account.

Shapton said he hopes they monitor more than just the newness of the GPS units and the maps within them. With the presence of actual dead zones in rural towns like Caledon, he'd like to see drivers, even if they aren't from the area they work in, trained and educated on that area.

"With updated maps and equipment, if they still aren't picking up a signal, it still won't help," Shapton said, wondering about classic training with paper maps to familiarize drivers with areas before they're even sent out. "Even if they had a map on the wall of the station they could double check. There could be a low tech solution to a high tech problem."

Bob Shapton, a Caledon resident, had a serious wait for ambulance services in August. Matthew Strader

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