



submitted photos

The family and friends of Georgia Rayne Marshall-Lewis, including her baby cousin Ariya Marshall, also born in October, accept a \$10,000 cheque following a fundraising hockey game between the two Turtle Jack's restaurants in Hamilton and Waterdown on Feb. 23.

Georgia on their minds

Turtle Jack's restaurants boost ailing baby and family

by **Melanie Cummings**
SPECIAL TO THE REVIEW

Just four months old and already Georgia Rayne Marshall-Lewis has a lot of fans cheering her on and digging deep into their pockets to help her mom and dad, Vanessa Marshall and Gord Lewis, cope.

The proliferation of loving messages on red construction paper hearts at the entranceways of the Turtle Jack's restaurants in Waterdown and in Hamilton is proof of the infant's growing popularity. And \$10,000 in donations generated at both locations provides ample evidence of her celeb status.

Georgia is fighting for her life at Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto. She has a rare congenital defect called hypoplastic left heart syndrome, which means half of her heart is underdeveloped. It's a condition that affects one in 4,500 babies.

Five days after Georgia's birth, on Oct. 15, she underwent open heart surgery. On Feb. 17, she faced a second surgery. She's also survived four heart attacks, infections and more complications in her short life. More surgeries to reconstruct her heart are in the offing.

When Vanessa's former coworkers at Turtle Jack's in Waterdown heard about her daughter's plight, they immediately took action.

During February, the Upper James restaurant's guest services manager Shirlene Nalepa and assistant general manager Linda Jekabsons put the fundraiser together, asking patrons to donate



Georgia Rayne Marshall-Lewis is surrounded by messages of support from donors at Turtle Jack's in Waterdown and Hamilton who contributed \$10,000 through February.

money and write a message on the cutout hearts.

"Some guests donated \$1, some \$100," said Shirlene. "But all of them wrote messages of hope and love for Georgia, Vanessa and Gord."

A rival hockey game between staff at the two restaurants last Tuesday (Feb. 23) also helped raise more money. That's where the \$10,000 cheque was presented to Georgia's cousin Ariya Marshall, who was also born last October, and her aunts and uncles Jennifer O'Neale, Tyler and Alex Marshall and Kirstin Wilkinson. (Sidenote:

see **Donations pg. 13**



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Donations will help family stay right by Georgia's side at SickKids

continued from pg. 3

The Hamilton hockey team held on to its championship title for the second year in a row, defeating the Waterdown Turtle Jack's team 9-6.)

"We are absolutely speechless of how much was raised or that this was even done for us,"

said Vanessa. "We are so grateful and beyond lucky to have so many people sending their love to our baby girl. We wish we could thank every single person that donated individually. We can't wait to pay it forward."

The Turtle Jack's donation will help cover

Vanessa and Gord's expenses while living away from their Burlington home and the cost of hiring staff to run Vanessa's business, Lubu Lashes. Gord is on leave from his job at Peel Scrap. For the past four months the couple has been living at Ronald McDonald House in Toronto and

plan to stay by their daughter's side. It's unlikely Georgia will be discharged anytime soon, but she is doing "amazing," Vanessa, said on Monday. Georgia is no longer in critical care and is now in a step-down room, breathing on her own and almost off all of her intravenous meds.

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OLMC students (left to right, with Andrew Bryl, the school's eco rep) Kaeld Rampersad, (senior kindergarten) Ashley Zanatta (Grade 8), Alana King (Grade 5), Olivia MacLean (Grade 1) and Dylan MacLean (Grade 2), had their fusion garden designs featuring drought-resistant plants selected for planting in September.



Mac Christie • Review

Students plant ideas for natural space

OLMC to install water-conserving gardens in the fall

By Mac Christie
FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW STAFF

Next fall, the gardens at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School will look a bit different from a standard garden – the beds will be stocked with native, water conserving plants.

The planting project, said OLMC principal Angela Wintar, was instituted in response to the water usage and supply issues plaguing the Carleton Place community.

Wintar noted the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board's Religion and Family Life program leader Dr. Paul Beaudette originally broached the project to her.

She noted the city had reached out to Beaudette as a result of the water issues.

"They really felt that the way to reach the parents was through educating the kids," she said. "So would we be willing to be a pilot school for this? I said, 'For sure.'"

see Garden pg. 15

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Garden organizers aim to create demand for native plants

continued from pg. 14

Chris Wilson, the customer service and community outreach project manager for Hamilton Water, said the school initiative is part of the overall conservation program in Carlisle. "We have a lot of people coming in and out of the school, kind of a community centre, and it's a great opportunity for people to look, touch, feel and smell some of these native plants," he explained.

Wintar said the project is meant to utilize the school's garden spaces as demonstration gardens for drought tolerant plants and species, as well as alternatives to grass, such as eco grass or groundcover. The plants will be labeled to explain each species.

The gardens will be planted in the fall because the new plants would be hard to maintain over the summer vacation when no one is at the school. "We're going to start from scratch in September," Wintar said.

The gardens on each side of the main entrance to the school will be replanted with a variety of plants that are native to the area. These include grasses and ground covers, as well as burning bushes, green pillar pin oak, Canadian Serviceberry, hostas and butterfly bush groupings.

Four smaller garden plots will be replanted as fusion gardens – gardens that only use plants found naturally in southern Ontario. These were designed by students as part of a school-wide contest, with the four winning designs – chosen from 70 submissions – being planted in the fall.

Students were given a list of natural plants and had to draw a rendering of their proposed garden, as well as a rationale for why they chose the plants that they did. The students who submitted the winning designs were Grade 8 student Ashley Zanatta, senior kindergarten student Kaleb Rampersad, Grade 5 pupil Alana King and siblings Dylan and Olivia MacLean, in Grade 2 and 1 respectively.

King noted she was excited about the project. "I like the prairie smoke," she said of the pink coloured wildflower. "I put it at the back of the garden because it's the tallest."

Wintar noted Rob Richarz, the city's project manager of outreach and education, spoke to the students about water usage at a May assembly and initiated the design contest.

"How much water we use, how much water it takes when you leave the tap running when you're brushing your teeth – that sort of thing," she said of the talk. "Then he talked about why we need to save water."

Each student-designed plot will be adorned with a sign in their own writing and their divisions will be responsible for planting and maintaining it.

Wintar noted one of the challenges facing the project is that many of the naturally occurring plants are not available at area garden centres. Andrew Bryl, a Grade 7 teacher at the school, is the school's eco rep and a member of the Catholic School Council's Greening Committee. He said the garden will promote the different kinds of plants.

"It will be like a showcase for the community and show parents the possibilities," he said. "Our hope is we can create a demand for these types of plants."

Next year, the school plans to include more formal education related to the project, such as water usage and the role of shade trees.

Wintar said including more of an educational component next year dovetails nicely, as the students will be able to see the physical gardens at that point.

Wintar added there has been a lot of parent buy-in to the idea.

"Kids are the ones who make the difference," she said. "They're the ones who go home with the information and parents buy into it."

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Nicole Fuentes • Special

(Left to right) Rosemary Weiler works on a knitting project while Connie Moore and Jean Lilly check out the computer and little Henry Tiller enjoys some of the toys from the St. James playroom. The group was part of a recent Joy of Stitching session at the Parkside Drive church.

Group stitches generations together

by Brenda Jefferies
FLAMBOROUGH REVIEW STAFF

Each Tuesday morning, St. James United Church is a hive of activity as knitters, quilters, sewers and stitchers gather to work on projects, learn a new skill or pass along some of their techniques to other members of the Joy of Stitching group.

And Pat Simpson is hoping to stretch that thread of creativity even farther into the community.

“The St. James stitching group has been meeting for 30 years,” explained the longtime Waterdown resident, who this year made an application for a church grant to hire a childcare provider to be on duty during the sessions at the Parkside Drive site.

“We have all this expertise, and we wanted to reach the younger generation, but we knew we needed to have daycare. So we used the grant money to hire an ECE worker to provide day-see Seniors pg. 34



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The public meeting will include a presentation from both Metrolinx and City of Hamilton staff on accessibility achievements to date and future initiatives. Also, roundtable discussions will be held on the accessibility of the various transit services wherein interested persons and agencies can participate and provide comments.

The scheduled date, time and location of the meeting is as follows:
Tuesday, October 27, 2015 - 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, 116 King Street West
2nd Floor - South, West and Centre Ballrooms
Please note: The above location is accessible

If you plan on attending the meeting, it is recommended that you confirm your attendance in advance with ATS. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, real-time captioning and attendant services will be provided at the meeting. Also, if you require information in a specific format (i.e. large print or Braille) please let ATS know in advance.

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Seniors, young moms have plenty to teach each other

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care.”

Simpson was part of a group of local seniors who last year teamed up with a class at Waterdown District High School to trade skills – the older generation taught the teens how to bake and sew, while the students gave the seniors some computer tips. She would like to see the Joy of Stitching group become an extension of that experience.

“I want to get the generations together,” she said. Specifically, she’s hoping some local mothers with young children will come and check out the group, and all it has to offer.

“Everybody helps each other; we teach each other,” said Simpson, who brings in several pieces of her own sewing and quilting equipment for the group members to use each week.

Drop-in

Simpson points out the sessions are drop-in format and there is no registration fee – features that might appeal to busy young moms, as well as seniors in the community who may be looking to try something new or share what they know in a relaxed environment. Promotional flyers urge participants to bring along UFOs (unfinished objects) they would like to

complete with the guidance of experienced crafters.

In her grant application, Simpson explained the Joy of Stitching group can help seniors by utilizing their skills and providing a place to socialize; for young mothers, it offers not the chance to learn how to sew or bake, it gives them time to socialize with other adults in a supportive environment.

The mandate of the group is intentionally broad – anything goes, from quilting and smocking to computer skills and achieving the perfect pie crust.

For those who don’t have a specific project in mind, some materials are available to get started.

“We are just figuring out our direction, but the focus is on companionship and sharing,” said Simpson. “We have all this talent, all this enthusiasm and now we have the grant for the ECE teacher. We really want the focus to be on getting young people and mature retired people together.”

The Joy of Stitching group meets 10 a.m. - noon every Tuesday at St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Dr. in Waterdown.

For more information, call 905-689-6223.

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