

THORNHILL LIBERAL

CANADIAN BLACK FRIDAY
Special Edition!
SEE PAGE 19

Publicationmail agreement #40051189

\$1 INCLUDING HST /32 PAGES

WEST EDITION

Thursday, Nov. 27, 2014

yorkregion.com 905-881-3373



Serving up fun

Local tennis star, Raonic an ace with kids

PAGE 14



Dangerous year

4 elderly pedestrians killed in York in 2014

PAGES 9, 10

Know what's on?

Check out our calendar listings

PAGE 24



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

BBYO members and event organizers (from left) Rebecca Weiss, Thornhill's Chloe Dimerman, Sasha Stroyev and Eden Meisell sort food before the world premiere of *MockinJay* at SilverCity Thursday. The event, Can-Tribute, aimed for 1,000 cans of food for the food bank.

Jewish youth groups show they 'can'

BY SIMONE JOSEPH
 sjoseph@yrmg.com

These teens are fighting hunger.

Local chapters of a worldwide Jewish youth movement, BBYO, have teamed up with a not-for-

profit organization for young people and social change (DoSomething.org).

They have launched a campaign rallying young people across North America to fight hunger through a food collection drive.

The campaign — called Can-

Tribute — started Sept. 23, just before the Jewish high holidays to fall in line with the Yom Kippur tradition of collecting food for the needy during the day of fasting, and lasted through Nov. 20.

Eight BBYO chapters across the Greater Toronto Area partici-

pated in the campaign, including the organization's newest chapter, which launched in Richmond Hill just after Labour Day.

To celebrate the end of the campaign, BBYO collaborated

See **TEENS**, page 10

How will I spend Black Friday?

Shop, Save, Win

Black Friday Sale

Friday November 28th

8am - 10pm*

Gift Card

Giveaways All Day!**



CENTERPOINT MALL

centerpointshops.com



Over 130 stores and services conveniently located at the corner of Yonge & Steeles



Flato Markham Theatre

LIVE ARTS MATTERS.

THE SULTANS OF STRING
Live with the Ontario Philharmonic
Sat. Nov. 29, 8 pm



THE KLEZMATICS In Association With ASHKENAZ
Thurs. Dec. 11, 8 pm



AN EVENING WITH MATT DUSK
Fri. Dec. 12, 8 pm

Sponsor: MINKEN EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS

Media Partners: JAZZ WAVE

NATALIE MACMASTER DONNELL LEAHY
A CELTIC FAMILY CHRISTMAS
Sat. Dec. 20, 2 pm & 8 pm



THE NUTCRACKER
Tues. Dec. 30, 2 & 7 pm

Canada's Boldest JÖRGEN
"Family Fun" Series Sponsor: OLDFIELD HALL

DIAMOND SERIES | 14 • 15
formerly the Don Valley North Automotive Group
www.arkincanada.com

Season Media Presenter: metrolandmedia
Season Media Partner: FLATO MARKHAM
Hospitality Sponsor: ECONOMIST & SUN

905-305-7469
www.markhamtheatre.ca

Teens preview movie, fill food bank shelves

From page 1.

with Camp Northland-B'nai Brith and Canadian Young Judaea, along with local chapters of North American Federation of Temple Youth and United Synagogue Youth, to host a pre-screening of the *Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1* at SilverCity Richmond Hill Cinemas the day before the movie's release.

More than 300 teens from Thornhill, Richmond Hill and beyond went to the pre-screening, filling large collection boxes with non-perishable food items to donate to the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank.

For more information about BBYO, visit bbyo.ca or call 416-398-2004.

Challenge finding balance for drivers, walkers

From page 9.

combined with:

- society's encouragement of active transportation and public transit
- improvements in vehicle safety that make drivers feel safer, but not pedestrians
- an aging population that is more susceptible to serious injury or death in a collision.

Older residents may be used to a time when York roads were slower, less congested. They may try to hustle across the street faster than their aging limbs can take them.

And they may not be as sharp as they used to be. The Alzheimer's Society predicts 1.4 million Canadians will have dementia by 2031. Their subsequent loss of driver's licence may leave them stranded on sidewalks, struggling to negotiate busy crossings as pedestrians.

The Region of York has tried to

adapt to those trends — reducing speeds at crosswalks, for example, and lowering speed limits on 45 sections of regional roads.

There are also calls for more traffic lights, but at a cost of \$150,000 plus maintenance, that isn't always the best solution, Titherington says.

Increased time for pedestrians at crosswalks, increased traffic lights and lower speed limits may have a negative impact on traffic flow.

The challenge is finding a balance between walkers' safety and drivers' frustration, he says.

"There's only so much you can do from a road design perspective. A large part of it is behavioural.

"People don't appreciate how difficult driving a car is. It's the most difficult thing you're going to do in a day."

But that's easily forgotten when your car is as comfy as your living room — your tush nestled in a heated

seat, GPS, music and radio at your fingertips, hands-free for endless conversation.

And yet, says Titherington, "there are so many decisions you have to make in split seconds. Especially at signalized intersections, where it's most complex. Pedestrians need to be aware of that".

A surprising number of fatalities occur when pedestrians are legally crossing the road, lulled, perhaps, by a false sense of security.

"You're putting your life in drivers' hands. You may be right, but you're still going to be dead."

Adding to the problem: York Region has, until recently, been mostly rural or suburban, pedestrians few and far between. Further from a city centre, roads are built for cars: wider, more difficult to cross, vehicles moving faster.

"When you're driving downtown Toronto, there's a constant tension there," Titherington says. "You assume a cyclist or pedestrian could be around every corner. In York, you're more relaxed, fewer people walking — especially in the northern areas — so you end up with trouble as we saw in Newmarket on the weekend."

Greg Beros is a councillor in Oak Ridges where another fatality occurred recently. He wonders if it will be even harder to cross regional roads when Viva's new rapidway bus lanes cut through the centre.

Yet Susan Eng, president of the Canadian Association of Retired Persons, suggests the rapidway bus lanes may actually be helpful, because their centre-lane median will allow older pedestrians a chance to rest mid-way as they cross.

Further design changes can help, she says.

In York Region, most street corners are cut in a curve to allow drivers to turn without reducing speed, but this just makes an already-wide distance even wider for pedestrians to cross. The solution: put corners back so cars must slow down.

It's the kind of approach that has had success in Sweden, she says.

"We can be screaming 'be careful' all we want; it won't solve the problem." Instead, she says, communities could be built with pedestrians foremost, but that is a political choice, and not always popular — especially with traffic congestion a top issue for many municipalities in last month's election.

Adriana Pisano Beaumont, a Richmond Hill resident, suggests cities establish citizen safety task forces to find the highest risk areas on local streets and come up with solutions.

The Region of York takes a similar multi-pronged approach on a regional level, and an education campaign spreads the region's safety message at local schools.

It may be time to start making that pitch at senior centres, too, Titherington says.

OUR LEGACY IS PRESERVING YOURS.

Saying goodbye is hard enough. Don't leave the burden of your final arrangements to your loved ones.

When you're ready to talk, we're here to listen. Pre-plan with us.



Beechwood Cemetery

www.mountpleasantgroup.com/planning

7241 Jane Street, Vaughan, ON L4K 1A7 | Tel 905-669-1827 or 1-800-408-6033

Beechwood Cemetery is a business name of Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries.