

Sponsored refugee family to arrive by spring

By MARNI WALSH
Freelance Reporter

Headwaters Refugee Sponsorship Group has confirmed that an Iraqi family of four will arrive in Orangeville some time before spring.

Currently in Syria, the family escaped violence that would have threatened their lives had they stayed in Iraq. At this point, little more is known about the family other than there is a father, mother, son and daughter.

The process of bringing the family to Canada started with a study of refugees by the Dufferin Kairos Group, an ecumenical social justice consortium, about three years ago. Feeling that "study" was not enough, they decided to pursue refugee sponsorship and a series of meetings led to the formation of the Headwaters Refugee Sponsorship Group last May.

The sponsorship group works through AURA

(Anglican United Refugee Alliance), a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. AURA's mandate is to assist Anglican and United Church congregations sponsor refugees.

Forty individuals actively supporting the Headwaters group represent approximately 10 different church congregations in Dufferin and Caledon. The group works through Westminster United Church in Orangeville and say their "motive is faith-based."

Many Dufferin churches have chosen to support the project financially, such as St. Timothy's Catholic Church whose congregation donated their Christmas Eve offerings to help bring the family to Canada. The sponsorship group's executive committee in Dufferin includes John Meek, Jim Lindsay, Donna Bayham, Ann Lay, and Susanne Boisvenue. John Meek, who has

worked with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, says the group has "committed to supporting the family for one year". This will include financial support, in-kind donations of household effects and clothing, and assistance to become accustomed to Canada.

"We have set up several sub-committees to assist them with every aspect of integration into Canadian life, from accommodation to trauma support if needed. Above all, we will provide moral support and a supportive loving community."

Ruth Cruikshank, a member of Dufferin Kairos and one of the 40 supporters of the Headwaters Group, is on the Education and Child Care sub-committee aiding the refugee family. She has visited a refugee camp in Thailand on the Burma-Myanmar border as well

as an orphanage in Liberia, where she says the "conditions were similar".

Ruth feels church refugee sponsorship is extremely successful, achieving friendships that often continue long after the required one year of support. She noted that Canada is the only country with this type of sponsorship program.

John Meek says that fundraising is still needed for the family, as are group supporters. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the sponsorship group can forward cheques to Westminster United Church, Box 34, Orangeville, ON, L9W 2Z5, payable to Westminster United Church Refugee Sponsorship. To be an active group supporter contact headwatersrefugeesupportgroup@gmail.com



Photo/DAN PELTON

CUTTING FOR A CAUSE: Henning Salon, in conjunction with other Orangeville hair stylists, staged a "cut-a-thon" Monday that raised \$5,500 for former Orangeville Northern lacrosse star Chris Sanderson, who is battling brain cancer in the United States. Participating salons included Aarts Hair Studio, Hair Design 3, Gemini, Heather Hibbs and the Body Bar. Sandra Lee is shown here styling the locks of Laura Peniuk.

Dufferin man part of Dubai exodus

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project) are fully committed to completing it," Rick said in an e-mail.

"People here are great

and the food is even better. The cost of living is much cheaper than Dubai. I live in a 4-bedroom villa for half what is cost me in Dubai for a one-bedroom apartment."

Singapore is one of only three city states in the world, along with Monaco and Vatican City.

The Marina Bay Sands is described as a complex with "three cascading hotel towers topped by an extraordinary sky park."

floating crystal pavilions" along with a museum, retail stores, trendy restaurants, entertainment theatres, "the hottest night clubs and a Las Vegas-style casino."

It will have a convention centre that can accommodate more than 45,000 dele-

gates, it says on its website. "Marina Bay Sands seamlessly combines business and leisure into a singular destination unlike any other." The website indicates an official opening later this year.

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THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF DUFFERIN

The County of Dufferin currently has Proposal packages available for the following:

RFP AD-09-01
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION AND PROVINCIAL OFFENCES
COURT ROOM AND OFFICE SPACE

Packages are available at:
County of Dufferin - Treasury Department
51 Zina Street
Orangeville ON L9W 1E5
(519) 941-2816 ext 2803

Paper copy is \$30.00
Email copy is \$25.00

Bidding subscribers can download documents from: www.biddingo.com

Sealed packages will be received at the Treasury Department until:
2:00 p.m. Thursday March 26th, 2009

The lowest or any proposal not necessarily accepted.

TEXAS HOLD-EM POKER TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER FOR ORANGEVILLE SENIOR CENTRE

Saturday, March 7, 2009
12:30 p.m. Registration 2:00 p.m. Start
\$50 per person \$20 Re-Buy
Orangeville Senior Centre
26 Bythia Street
Dinner Included
For Advance Tickets or Information call:
519-941-6012 or Wayne @ 519-943-1401
Must be 19 years of age or older

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Health Canada Advisory on RetroFoam Insulation

Health Canada was recently advised that RetroFoam has been installed in a limited number of homes in Ontario. This product is prohibited for sale in Canada.

Health Canada is informing consumers that RetroFoam insulation is a urea formaldehyde-based thermal insulation, a type of insulation that has been prohibited for sale in Canada under the Hazardous Products Act since December 1980, as it may release formaldehyde gas into indoor air.

Health Canada issued a "cease and desist" letter to RetroFoam of Canada Incorporated, the Canadian importer of the insulation, to stop all importation and sale of RetroFoam in Canada. Health Canada also instructed Enerliv, the Canadian distributor of RetroFoam, to stop all sale, advertisement and further installations of the product and to call back any unused product. As a result of Health Canada's actions, RetroFoam is no longer available for sale or installation in Canada.

Health Canada will be communicating with affected homeowners to provide further details on how they can obtain Government support for having their indoor air quality tested.

For more information call
1-800-443-0395
www.healthcanada.gc.ca

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www.deltachelsea.com/marchbreak

*Offer is valid for stays March 13 - 22, 2009 only. One game per family booking. Conditions/restrictions apply. New bookings only