



Photo/WES KELLER
ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY is being targeted by a new support group: From left, Darren Davidson of Davidson Rehab, support workers Norman Phillips and Wendy Cook, and members Dale Armstrong and Kevin Franklin discuss next Tuesday's founding meeting of a Dufferin acquired brain injury association. The 6:30 p.m. meeting at Community Living Dufferin promises to be both educational and helpful as there are many causes of injury, many different results, and many roads to recovery. CLD is wheelchair-accessible, and everyone is welcome.

Brain injury support group forms

By **WES KELLER**
Freelance Reporter

A group of professionals in Orangeville has been quietly putting together what it calls a "grassroots organization" to provide support for persons who have sustained "acquired brain injury" (ABI), which it says can result from a host of experiences in addition to the obvious one of a blow to the head.

"It can result from (such as) aneurisms and strokes,

as well as from car accidents, falls on the ice or from a ladder or a tree," says Wendy Cook, a member of the group whose son, Keaton, suffered a severe head injury in Grand Valley more than a decade ago and whose survival has been "nothing short of a miracle," she said.

Darren Davidson, one of the professional founders of the group, said the organization "will allow ABI survivors an opportunity to access resources and fund-

ing (such as workshops, seminars, outings, peer support meetings, professional resource referral service) that will facilitate an improved quality of life and will provide opportunities for more independent living."

He said the Orangeville group would not be the first in Ontario. "There are many such groups in other parts of Ontario, but none to speak of in Dufferin County," he said.

"The Ontario Brain

Injury Association (OBIA), as part of their mandate, will help our group by facilitating our first couple meetings, and will be a future resource when need be. Our first invited guest speaker will be Scott Faraway from Peel-Halton Acquired Brain Injury Services (PHABIS), who will be outlining the services his association can offer people from around our region."

The initial meeting of the local group is scheduled for next Tuesday evening, Oct. 20, from 6:30 to 8:30 at Community Living Dufferin, 29 Centennial Road. It is wheelchair-accessible, and everyone is invited.

Because the brain is something of a compartmentalized thing, different types of trauma can affect victims in many different

ways. Kevin Franklin, a member of the group, was an estimator prior to his injury. Now he has problems with mathematics but is learning to compensate to some extent. David Armstrong, another member, said Tuesday he has been having problems with spelling since he was hurt in a car accident.

Others outlined varying causes and symptoms. Ms. Cook said it's important to keep smiling.

For more information about the group or about upcoming meetings, including next Tuesday evening's, you can contact either Darrin Davidson at Davidson Rehab, email davidsonrehab@rogers.com or 519-217-3033, or Michele Meehan of OBIA at 1-800-263-5404 or michelem@obia.on.ca

OPP driver initiative deemed a success

By **DAN PELTON**
Staff Reporter

targeted aggressive drivers and speeders.

During the weekend Dufferin OPP detachment members issued 90 provincial offence notices to those using the roadways within Dufferin County.

There was a decrease, however, in motor vehicle collisions investigated by the detachment — six compared with 10 last year.

Dufferin OPP handed out 72 speeding tickets, for eight failing to wear seat belts, one for careless driving, one for racing and eight other for moving violations.

Province-wide, there was only one fatality during the long weekend as

compared with 11 last year.

Across the province, OPP officers checked 145,071 vehicles, charged 7,155 people with speeding, 657 with non-seatbelt or child restraint use, laid 187 drinking and driving charges and handed out 113 three-day suspensions.

In Grey County, two impaired drivers were apprehended and three 72-hour driver's licence suspensions were issued. In addition, 121 drivers were charged with speeding, 19 seat belt tickets were served and there were six charges laid for other Highway Traffic Act moving violations.

Stories, music coming to Corbetton Church

Dufferin County Museum and Archives and the Dufferin Arts Council plan to present the Dufferin Circle of Storytellers in Historic Corbetton Church later this month.

Those attending will enjoy seasonal stories by some of the "usual suspects" with live musical

accompaniment by Saxophonist, Gary Corlett in the intimate surroundings of Corbetton Church on the Museum grounds.

The program is suitable for ages 12 to 112, and you can enjoy refreshments and conversation in the Museum after the special program.

It will all take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 30, on the grounds of the Dufferin County Museum and Archives. Tickets @ \$10 are available from BookLore in Orangeville, Jelly Café in Shelburne, Curiosity House in Creemore and at the museum.

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THE TAX RELIEF PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME SENIORS AND LOW-INCOME PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Council of the Corporation of the County of Dufferin has passed a by-law providing for relief of a portion of property tax increases on property in the residential/farm property class for owners (or spouses or same-sex partners of owners) who are low-income seniors or low-income persons with disabilities.

The deadline for application is **November 30** of the year to which the tax increase relates.

A person is eligible for the purpose of this by-law if at the time of making the application they are:

- 65 years of age or older and eligible for or in receipt of the guaranteed income supplement as outlined in the Old Age Security Act.

OR

- Eligible for or in receipt of an allowance, benefits or income support as a disabled person or as a person with a disability as outlined in the Family Benefits Act or the Ontario Disability Support Program Act.

AND

- A person who has owned real property within the County of Dufferin for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the application.

Proof that you are in receipt of one of the above may be requested.

If you feel you meet the above criteria and would benefit from this program, applications are available at local municipal offices and at the County of Dufferin Treasury office. Completed applications should be forwarded to the following address:

Treasurer
 County of Dufferin
 51 Zina Street,
 Orangeville, Ontario L9W 1E5

Related inquiries can be directed to 519-941-2816 extension 2805.

All information will remain confidential

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Free breakfast at Angel's Diner! Our first 100 customers at the new Orangeville location will receive a \$5.00 gift certificate from Angel's Diner. Of course you're able to pay for any meal you want with that gift certificate, but \$5.00 is enough to buy breakfast at Angel's Diner on Broadway! If you're behind filing your taxes, this is your chance to get caught up and get a **free breakfast at the same time!**

Instant Refund Service. For those who qualify, we are able to issue a cheque for your tax refund right away. The fee is a prescribed government rate - which means the fee doesn't change no matter where you go in Canada. Why not give us a try?

Early Refund Season is open! For those who have been on Ontario Disability Supports Program (ODSP) or Ontario Works (OW) for more than one year, all you need to file your 2009 tax return right now is a copy of all your income-slips for the year (payslips), and a copy of your rent receipt (year to date). Some conditions apply - but it may be possible to get your tax refund for the 2009 year right now! Give us a call for details.

Tax Experts. Although new to Orangeville, we have been in business for more than 10 years. This is our 4th location, and we have knowledge and experience to save you money no matter what type of tax return you have. We are here to help with your **personal, small business, GST, and corporate** tax returns. If you have questions, please feel free to ask anytime.

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 5 First Street, unit 2 Telephone: 519-307-1182
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