

# localnews

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## newsbriefs

■ HOUSING: Company is using LEED standards to construct new homes

# Builder bets on 'green' houses

### CAR BREAK-INS ON RISE

Kingston Police say there's been a rash of more than 200 thefts from vehicles in the past several weeks. In many cases, the thief or thieves broke windows to get to the goods inside.

Police say cellphones, wallets, purses, laptop computers and MP3 players, such as iPods, are favourite targets and should never be left in plain sight inside a vehicle.

In some cases, vehicles have been vandalized even though nothing was stolen, and incidents have happened across the city.

Residents are encouraged to call police if they see strangers loitering around cars parked in lots or on residential streets.

### MUSIC ICON TO PLAY CITY

Country music legend George Jones will perform at the K-Rock Centre on Saturday, Oct. 24. It was announced yesterday. Jones, 78, began his recording career more than 50 years ago. He has charted more singles than any other artist, in any format, in the history of popular music. His 1980 hit, *He Stopped Loving Her Today*, was once voted the greatest country song of all time. Known as the Possum, Jones' most recent album, 2008's *Burn Your Own House Down*, featured duets with such diverse artists as Mark Knopfler, Keith Richards, Leon Russell, his daughter, Georgette, and his ex-wife, Tammy Wynette.

### ARMY TO TRAIN IN CITY

Military training involving 80 army officers and instructors from the Canadian Land Force Command and Staff College at Fort Frontenac will be held tomorrow in the area of Queen's University Alumni Association at 4:30 p.m., the unarmed officers, dressed in field uniforms, will engage in tactical exercises and travel in civilian practical vehicles.

### PROFS TO BE HONOURED

Stewart Fyfe and Brian Osborne will receive the Padre Lavery and Jim Bennett achievement awards from the Kingston branch of the Queen's University Alumni Association at a dinner tomorrow at Ban Righ Hall. Alumni and friends are invited to attend the 6 p.m. event honoring the two emeritus professors. Osborne, from the geography department, will receive the Bennett award, which is presented annually to recognize Kingstonians who have made outstanding achievements in careers, sport, the arts, or volunteer endeavours. Fyfe, from the school of political studies, will receive the Lavery award, named for university's first chaplain, Marshall Lavery. It is given to an alumna or alumnus, usually a resident of the Kingston area, for service to Queen's and the Kingston community.

### MUSIC FOCUS OF LECTURE

The Southeastern Ontario Palliative and End-of-Life Care Network is hosting a free public lecture tomorrow to open National Hospice Palliative Care Week. Music therapist Bob Heath will speak about the role of music in patient care from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Light refreshments will follow at the Octave Theatre, 711 Dalton Ave. The Network is also hosting a two-day conference for health-care workers, Oct. 15-16, at the Octave Theatre. There will be workshops in communication, creative therapies and community care with David Kuhl, Hilary Pearson, Sadiqa Khan and other registrants. The fee is \$200, with breakfast and lunch provided both days at Days Inn. To register, contact Stephanie Fischko at 613-533-6000, ext. 78542, or at [fishco@queensu.ca](mailto:fishco@queensu.ca).

### MENTAL HEALTH FAIR

The fourth annual Frontenac Community Services Fair in support of mental health services takes place tomorrow from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall, City Hall. More than 40 local agencies will be present to provide information to the public and networking opportunities for health-care workers. The fair is co-sponsored by the Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Addictions and Mental Health Coalition and the Human Services and Justice Coordination Network.

### SALE PUNCHES RESEARCH

Mark's Work Warehouse will host its ninth annual Ladies' Night Thursday from 5 to 11 p.m. Mark's is offering a 20% discount on all purchases, with \$5 of every \$65 spent going to breast cancer research. To date, Mark's has raised more than \$967,000 nationally for the Breast Cancer Society of Canada. This year's goal is \$500,000, bringing the total contribution to more than \$1 million. Mark's has three Kingston locations: 1181 Princess St., 628 Gardiners Rd. and 1040 Division St.

### FAMILY REGION NIGHT

Catawqui Frog Conservation Authority will host its annual family frog night here on May 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Little Catawqui Creek Conservation Area. This popular event teaches children about the different frogs that live in Little Catawqui Creek. There will be a short walk around the conservation area to listen for frog calls. Entrance fees are \$4.50 for adults and \$2 for children under 12, to a maximum of \$11 per car.

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How far would you be willing to go to own an environmentally friendly home? For an installation energy system, drought-free landscaping and insulation way beyond code?

How much would you be willing to pay for all of this?

An extra \$30,000, perhaps?

A Kingston home-building company is about to test the market for just such a house.

Caraco Development will soon be opening a model home at the corner of Andersen Drive and Crossfield Avenue in the city's west end that will be Kingston's — and one of Canada's — first LEED-certified homes.

"There are people looking for this," said Caraco's Ken Dantzer, "but the majority of people are cost-conscious. LEED might be the next most popular thing that drives customers to us in droves. It's in our best interest to stay on top of this."

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a new rating system devised by the Canada Green Building Council.

It is, essentially, an extensive checklist of features that will render a home more efficient, more comfortable and, most importantly, less of a burden on the environment.

For instance, extra points are awarded for using building materials that are manufactured in an environmentally sound way, even including how they are shipped — such as by rail rather than truck.

The Caraco model home has a base price of \$300,000, with the \$30,000 worth of green features on top of that. Some of these will include:

- A heat-recovery ventilation system that collects stale air from the house and exhausts to the outside; meantime, clean air is pulled from the outside and warmed by the air going out.

- Solar-energy panels installed on the roof that produce energy not for the house itself but to be sold to the provincial power grid. At a cost of about 42 cents, it sells power for about 16 cents, a kilowatt while incoming electricity currently costs 11 to 12 cents.

- Sun heating the roof is a device stopping a coal-fired plant from being fired," said Dantzer. "You're making use of the property to do something environmentally friendly."

- All hot water pipes in the house are fully insulated — not just in the basement, but throughout the entire wall space, right to the taps. "If you're going to heat up the water, let's keep it hot so you use less energy in the end," he said.

- The deck on the back of the house is made of British Columbia cedar that meets Forest Stewardship Council standards. These standards include best land stewardship and labour management practices.

Dantzer wanted to pay special attention to the lawns and shrubbery so he hired local landscaper architect Bardi Vorster.

Vorster was at the house yesterday, sizing up the grounds and considering the options.

"The idea, she is, is to ensure that the water moves away from the house but stays onsite."

In order to maximize the LEED points, she will recommend non-invasive plant species, a blend of grass for the lawns that needs less watering as well as plants that are drought-resistant.

"That all contributes to using less water," said Vorster.

Even the slope of the property can be used to advantage — by grading the yard so that it drains



Ken Dantzer of Caraco Development Corp. stands in front of the energy-efficient home under construction on Crossfield Avenue. "There are people looking for this, but the majority of people are cost-conscious," Dantzer says.



Local landscape architect Bardi Vorster will help make the houses' lawns and shrubberies more environmentally friendly.

**Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design might be the next most popular thing that drives customers to us in droves.**

Caraco Development's Ken Dantzer

into one corner where shrubs and flowers can absorb it.

"It's all part of being sustainable and saving the planet," she said. "It does make a difference to collect your rainwater. It's like changing your incandescent lightbulbs to compact fluorescent. A little bit at a time. It's not rocket science and it's not new to landscaping."

"Having a rain barrel is also very handy. You can dip into it whenever your plants need a little water."

Vorster said most techniques can be employed quite easily in any neighbourhood.

"It's function first, and it has to be consistent with the look of the neighbourhood," she said. "I don't think it will look terrifically different. You can't change people's opinions overnight. They

still want grass. Making it blend in is the objective."

When the house is finished instead, it will undergo a final test to check for air-tightness.

"Lower utility bills, better indoor air quality, better comfort," said Dantzer. "There's an aspect that you are consuming less than you need to, that some care has been put into the design of the house."

Dantzer doesn't know how successful the LEED concept will be in Kingston. Any homes built in the past 10 years, he said, are already highly energy efficient.

"As long as you're building a new house you are buying an energy-efficient house," he said. "Because LEED has various degrees of certification, home buyers can opt for less expensive packages, probably for as low as \$20,000 on top of the base house price."

"That is a marketing and sales challenge that all builders deal with. There are buyers who don't want to go too much further. Customers want the opportunity to purchase what they desire," said Dantzer.

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