

Greenway celebrates talented seniors at film fest

by Alex Gregory

A group of seniors who with lifelong passions and overwhelming optimism were the focus of a film festival held in Brampton last week.

Revera's Greenway retirement residence hosted the "Age is More" Film Project on Thursday, Dec. 6, which brought ten seniors together with a group of youths to create a series of short films centered around the theme of "seniors with talent", that showcased social issues and highlight the unique life

stories of its residents.

"We knew them, but we didn't know their talents," said Leslie McLean, one of the subjects of the short films.

McLean, along with her partner Winston Chase, greatly enjoyed the experience of filming and learned more about the perspective and work of Ashleigh Lavoie, one of the student participants in the project.

"We learned that everyone has something to share," said McLean.

The films are specially-produced documentaries that largely focus on the retirement provider's efforts to combat ageism.

Having a film festival that connects seniors and youths has many great benefits for the groups involved and for the community as a whole, said festival program facilitator Mutya Macatumpag, who moderated a Q&A session with the participants after a screening of the ten films.

"When people have an opportunity to share their with the community, it helps everyone grow," said Macatumpag, who has worked with intergenerational and youth groups throughout Canada and the U.S.

The film festival provided a great way for the youths to learn more from their elders and hone their skills in a safe, supportive atmosphere that fosters creativity and further development, she said.

The project has global poten-

tial, said Macatumpag, and she hopes to see it replicated at other homes throughout the country, building off Revera's success hosting similar senior-oriented film festivals throughout Canada.

Patricia Legate, the subject of her own short film, showcased her long-running career as a dancer and teacher, and expressed admiration for aspiring filmmaker Harleen Harleen for capturing the essence of her life and continuing efforts to pro-

mote what she loves.

"When you're around so many enthusiastic young people, you work to keep up with them," said Legate.

The Honourable Bill Davis, former Premier of Ontario and Revera's Board Chair Emeritus, was also on-hand during the event to congratulate the participants and express his hope for future youth film festivals in Brampton.

To watch the films, visit ageismore.com.



A Winter Wonderland of activities kicks off in Brampton

A plethora of winter activities and events are set to take Brampton by storm over the winter season, with outdoor ice skating rinks and holiday programs in hot demand.

The City announced Friday morning that the Gage Park Outdoor Skating Trail has opened to the public, offering scenic Christmas-themed views and plenty of acreage for residents looking to enjoy a break in a "downtown oasis".

In addition to Gage Park, Chinguacousy Park Skate Trail and Mount Pleasant Outdoor Skating Rink, several other ice rinks are set to open over the coming season, with the Gore Meadows Community Centre covered outdoor ice rink set to open in the near future.

All three outdoor ice skating rinks are free to use - for further updates, visit brampton.ca/EN/residents/Recreation/Programs-Activities/Pages/Oudoor-Skating.

This Saturday, Chinguacousy Park (9050 Bramalea Rd.) brings a bit of Christmas cheer to the north end with a full day of family activities, including breakfast with Santa, writing letters to Santa and building gingerbread houses, beginning at 9:30. Registration is required for each activity.

To register, visit brampton.ca/EN/residents/Recreation/Programs-Activities.

Mount Chinguacousy comes alive when the snow falls.

Bundle up and hit the slopes beginning Dec. 27

(weather permitting) on Brampton's own ski, snowboard and tubing hill. Improve your skills with a ski or snowboard lesson and warm up in the cozy chalet.

The entrance to the ski chalet is at the corner of Central Park Drive and Bramalea Road.

Residents are also invited to drop off non-perishable food items or new, unwrapped toys at City Hall or any community centre or library in Brampton until Saturday, Dec. 16.

Donations will be given to local food bank and community kitchen, The Knights Table, to be distributed to families in need in the community.

The holidays are a magical time in Brampton, said Mayor Patrick Brown

in a statement last week, who encouraged the community to come out and visit all the different events.

"Our city sparkles with thousands of lights,

friends and families glide across our skating rinks and down Mount Chinguacousy, we count down to the New Year with incredible entertainment and we spread joy by giv-

ing back to our community," Brown said.

"The 2018 holiday season is filled with fun for everyone, and I encourage everyone) to take part in the festivities."

