

Managers at the Saan store in the Napanee Mall are hoping strong local Easter Seals egg sales will help their Southeastern Ontario chain crack the \$100,000 mark in campaign contributions this year.

The Saan store is selling paper eggs supplied by the Easter Seals Society for minimum donations of \$2 and special chicken keychains, produced by Saan for \$5.

Manager Bill Arsenault said the sales of both fundraising items have been brisk.

"Since last week we've probably sold 358 eggs, that's already almost \$800, which is much better than last year," he said. He added it has been hard to keep keychains, saying that some customers have come into the store specifically to buy them.

Last year, Saan stores across the region donated \$64,000 to the society. Of

that money, approximately \$2,000 was raised in Napanee. The local store raised the highest amount of any SAAN store in Southeastern Ontario. Its effect was felt close to home.

"All that money stays locally," said assistant manager Mary Ann Pringle.

Pringle says Saan supports the Easter Seals campaign because of the clientele the store serves.

"It's a family-oriented company. We feel fortunate to have children who are well, so we'd like to help the Easter Seals Society help those children. It is for a good cause."

Arsenault reports another store sold all of its keychains in one week, so the Napanee location is under pressure to rise to the occasion.

In addition to other Saan locations, Arsenault said some different chains like Giant Tiger and some grocery stores are also selling the paper eggs.

Napanee Saan store boosts Easter Seals



Adam Bramburger - Staff

EGG-CELLENT FUNDRAISER — Saan Assistant Manager Mary Ann Pringle and Manager Bill Arsenault display one of the paper eggs currently on sale for the store's Easter Seals campaign.

Shrike protection gets more visible

By Adam Bramburger
Staff Reporter

ALTHOUGH most Newburgh area residents might never see a live Eastern Loggerhead Shrike, some local naturalists have taken steps to ensure the endangered birds don't go unnoticed.

With the help of provincial and national conservation associations, the Lennox and Addington Stewardship Council and business partners, the Kingston Field Naturalists have erected a permanent, colourful sign detailing the bird's plight, good land stewardship tips, and some of the other grassland birds which share the local habitat. It was unveiled last Friday.

The sign sits just outside the Hilltop Variety and Gas Bar along County Road 1 in Newburgh. A similar sign has been raised at the Blessington Store in Tyendinaga Township.

Chris Grooms, the eastern region coordinator for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, says it is important local landowners recognize the stewardship role they can play in developing and protecting habitat for grassland birds.

"If landowners can see all this work was done for some bird, maybe they'll see some value in having birds and nature around," he said.

The signs were constructed during the past month. Some 150 volunteer hours and more than \$4,000 were committed to the project.

Kingston Field Naturalists president Sid Andrews said the sign will serve several purposes.

"It is intended to raise awareness of the shrikes' situation, the existence of the Important Bird Area and the important role



Adam Bramburger - Staff

DANGER SIGN — Sid Andrews (left) and Chris Grooms examine the new shrike sign situated at the south end of Newburgh. The sign was unveiled on Friday.

landowners play in habitat stewardship," he said. "It also promotes responsible eco-tourism by bird-watchers who come to see shrikes and the many grassland birds of the area."

Andrews told supporters that Grooms encouraged the project, saying the days are long gone when you can wait for the government to initiate such projects.

Hilltop store owner Jim Skinner said he had no objections to locating the signage on his property.

"They told me they wanted to build a sign to show more awareness for the birds. I said 'sure no problem, anything to save the bird,'" he said.

An amateur birder his whole life, Skinner said raising awareness for the birds is an important step.

So far, he says he thinks the signs are working, noting that people have been stopping outside

the store day and night to read the sign.

Due to its special pastureland quality, an area bound by Belleville to the west, Kingston to the east, Erinsville to the north and the Bay of Quinte to the south, has been designated as one of Canada's 597 important bird areas by the Canadian Federation of Nature. CFN biologist Sarah Wren said efforts by groups like this project by the Kingston Field Naturalists can have a large impact on conservation.

"You can see the results of people who volunteered their time to build, been overly gracious," she said "It's an example of how a small effort of a group can evolve into something meaningful conservation-wise."

The project will have to mean a lot, given that Grooms reports the local shrike population has dropped by half in the past year. Studies show that only 40 breed-

ing pairs exist in North America. Twelve of those pairs are local, 12 are found near Lindsay. The remaining 17 are in Manitoba and the Northeastern United States.

"The shrike is an indicator species, it gives us some warning that something's gone wrong," he said.

Former Stone Mills councillor and Newburgh resident Jan Samis said she thought the signs would help Newburgh residents appreciate the nature present near the village.

"A few years ago the Loggerhead Shrike organization thought it was best to keep these shrike lands unknown," she said. "This seems like a complete reversal to get local people involved and protect the habitat."

She said a lot of people she knew moved to the area because it still does have natural elements and wildlife habitat that aren't found elsewhere in the province.

Man charged after infant found out of car seat

Beaver Staff

NAPANEE OPP officers take child car-seat enforcement seriously — just ask a certain 38-year-old driver from Toronto.

On Monday at around 4 p.m., Constable Scott Underhill of the Napanee OPP detachment was dis-

patched to the eastbound lanes of Highway 401 after police received a complaint from a concerned motorist who observed an erratically driven motor vehicle containing an unrestrained child.

The blue Ford Windstar van was stopped by police just west of County Road 41 at Napanee. The van contained seven adults and

one small child.

The young girl, not even a year old, had been allowed to roam freely within the vehicle while en route from Toronto to Montreal.

The 38-year-old male driver of Toronto was charged under the Highway Traffic Act and fined \$110 for failing to ensure the child was properly restrained in

an approved car seat. In addition, police escorted the driver to a local store where he could purchase an appropriate child restraint, and ensured it was properly installed before allowing the driver to continue on his way to Montreal.