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Miss Fiesta contestants

AT LEAST two Whitby residents will compete for the title of Miss Fiesta in the upcoming Oshawa festival.

Sandra Porco (left) is Miss Italia and Roberta Sturgess is Miss Odessa.

Vince Ohprecio-Free Press photos

Builder answers criticism

A Whitby builder says only three dead trees, not 12 live trees, were cut down in an incident that led to a stop work order by the Town during residential construction on Martinet St.

Frank Strittmatter, president of Arch Construction, says the stop work order also only applied to the trees, not overall construction of the 73-link home subdivision which is 90 per cent complete.

"I'm the guy who tried to save these trees," says Strittmatter. He notes that the location of a

sidewalk along Martinet will determine whether or not trees are removed - a decision to be made by the Town.

He says the Town will have to decide whether to follow standard procedure for the sidewalk, which would mean removal of trees, or change the sidewalk location to save trees.

Strittmatter says Arch was unfairly criticized over the tree-cutting incident in a previous article in The Free Press.

"I'm probably the only developer who fertilizes trees on site," says Strittmatter.

"Maybe the developer can be blamed sometimes, but not always. It's certainly not the case this time.

"I've probably planted more trees than many environmentalists," he says of his previous construction work. He adds that the three dead trees he removed will allow others to grow.

He will plant 168 trees near the link homes as part of the subdivision agreement. The Arch homes back onto Martinet.

He says he is "absolutely convinced" the Town will now decide to keep the trees and move the sidewalk.

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Leningrad

FROM PAGE 1

says Carolann. The first leg of their trip will be a sail down the St. Lawrence River to St. John's, Newfoundland where the Soviet government will have their visas waiting.

They hope to be in St. John's by the first week in July. From there, they will head for Greenland where the strong current and possibility of icebergs could make the voyage dangerous.

"You don't dwell on the catastrophes. That's what stops a lot of people from experiencing life. Leslie and I are determined to do what we set out to do," says Carolann.

The couple have some experience in meeting their challenges as they sailed the first sailing yacht, the Aqua Star, across Hudson Bay. It was a sub-Arctic sail that took 108 days, in 1985.

The Sikes expect to be in Greenland by the first week of August and from there they sail to Iceland where they will spend the winter.

They will leave Iceland in the spring of 1990 and travel to Helsinki and then Leningrad.

At Helsinki, a Soviet journalist and photographer will join the crew for their trip to Leningrad.

They will stay seven days in Leningrad then leave for Hamburg, Germany where they will spend the winter. They expect to return to Canada in 1992.

Carolann says Leslie built the Aqua Star, a 50-ft. steel cruiser, in 1983. It was shortly after their Hudson Bay trip that they decided to sail to the Soviet Union.