

Waves and winds too much for Shields

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer



Colleen Shields came up short in her bid to be the oldest person to swim Lake Ontario last week. *Submitted photo*

Strong winds and three-foot high waves forced Colleen Shields to abandon her swim across Lake Ontario Thursday morning.

Shields, 58, of Georgetown, who previously successfully crossed the lake twice, came out of the water at 10 a.m. at the urging of her support team. Shields wound up four km short of finishing the 52 km swim. She made little headway in the final two and half hours.

"I couldn't make it into shore," said Shields Thursday, who injured her shoulder in the middle of the night. "I am so done."

"I'm very disappointed. I'm very frustrated and I'm very sad," said Shields, who entered the water at Niagara on the Lake at 4 p.m. Wednesday and planned to finish her swim at Marilyn Bell Park in Toronto.

She said Mother Nature would not cooperate with her once again.

The swimmer made two failed attempts last summer to cross the lake. Frigid temperatures forced her out of the water in September, and strong winds and high waves stopped her from succeeding last August.

Shields is the oldest female to cross the lake. In 1999 she made the swim in

17 hours and 56 minutes, and in 2006 she bested herself by making it in 16 hours, 30 minutes.

Had she been successful this time Shields would have been the oldest person to swim the lake, but stressed that wasn't her goal. She wanted to end her long distance swimming career successfully.

"You don't want to retire on a negative note," said Shields.

She joked she did perhaps set a record however— doing most of the swim topless.

She said her suit was bothering her so she pulled the top down.

With every part of her body hurting, Shields said she doesn't plan to attempt a crossing again.

She said her immediate plans are "going to bed for a while."

Kitchen capers

Hope Vandersluis, 8, and Jack Michie, 7, found making caramel apples a delightfully sticky, sweet exercise as they took part in the Halton Hills Recreation Department Summer Chefs in Training Camp, held in the kitchen at the Real Canadian Superstore.



Photo by Ted Brown

Bus orientation day set for Saturday

With the first day of school around the corner the Halton School Bus Safety Committee is hosting School Bus Orientation Day Saturday, Aug. 28 beginning at 9 a.m.

In Georgetown the event will be at Christ the King Secondary School and in Acton at Acton District High School.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the free sessions, which will feature a classroom presentation on school bus safety, including a special Winnie the Pooh video and demonstration on a school bus.

School bus safety officers and bus drivers will talk to the children about safely getting on and off the bus, proper behaviour on a school bus, crossing the

street to get to a waiting bus and overall school bus safety.

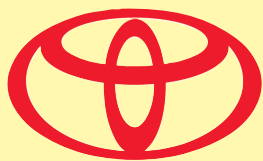
In addition, a tip sheet on school bus safety, entitled, "Think! Think! Think Safety!" will be distributed.

The event is designed to help students and parent feel more comfortable with the idea of riding a school bus. The School Bus Safety Committee consists of representatives from Halton Student Transportation Services and all bus operators in Halton.

To register students for a preferred time slot, parents should call the host bus company at the desired location.

In Georgetown call First Student at 905-877-2251, in Acton call Tyler Transport Ltd. at 519-853-1550.

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