

Fireplace Display Model Clearance



Thursday Sept 20th

10 am - 6 pm

Friday Sept 21st

10 am - 6 pm

Saturday Sept 22nd

10 am - 2 pm

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38 Stewarttown Rd., Georgetown

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Shields done with Lake Ontario... maybe

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

The word "almost" has become a little too common for long-distance swimmer Colleen Shields when discussing her latest attempt at making the 51-km crossing of Lake Ontario.

The 60-year-old Georgetown resident looked to be well on her way to becoming the oldest person to ever make the swim last Wednesday (Sept. 5), but after 14 hours in the water, she had to be scooped out of the lake with about 10 km to go due to exhaustion.

"Yes, I'm disappointed. But I'm trying to focus on what I did accomplish, which for a while there would have been the fastest time ever, and I'm still the oldest female to have made it," she said.

"I thought I had it in me and that things were finally going to go my way, but I just bonked. It's such a crapshoot...with the conditions. My training paid off and I won't fret about that part."

Shields had originally planned to attempt the swim Friday (Sept. 7) but rain was in the forecast and the weather seemed more favourable to try Wednesday.

Right from the start though, problems arose. Scheduled to leave at 1 a.m. Wednesday she didn't actually get into the water at Niagara-on-the-Lake until 6:17 a.m. and only had about 40 minutes of sleep.

She had forgotten the required paperwork to reapply for permission to swim. Then, partway through the trek, the sail-



Colleen Shields, 60, of Georgetown takes another stroke as she attempts to cross Lake Ontario last Wednesday. Submitted photo

boat's motor died and though the problem was fixed, the stress was adding up and despite some excellent interval times, an east southeast wind with four-foot waves were too formidable to overcome.

Shields made successful cross-

ings of Lake Ontario in 1990 and in 2006 to become one of only eight people to have completed the swim more than once. She has made seven attempts in total and due to the time and training commitment required, won't be making another attempt.

"I know I've said in the past that I wasn't going to try again and then went ahead and did it, but this time, for sure, I'm holding to it," Shields added, hinting, however, that next summer she and coach Nicole Harrison are planning to accomplish "something that's never been done before on Lake Ontario."

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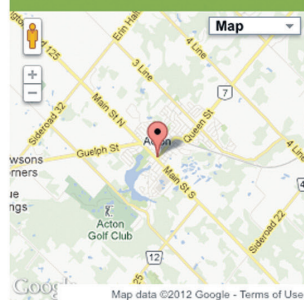
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- Expires November 15, 2012
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