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STEELY DETERMINATION: Acton's Paul Cobham (No. 4, right) gets off to a great start in the 1998 Ontario Cup #1 cross-country race recently in Uxbridge. Cobham won the race and is the man to beat in Sunday's Ontario Cup #2 race at Kelso. - Submitted photo

Cobham brothers real force in mountain bike racing

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
 The New Tanner

If Acton mom Carmela Cobham has a Mother's Day wish it would be for fast and safe races for her sons Paul and George who will compete in separate mountain bike races this weekend at Kelso in Milton.

Paul, 22, is a senior pro-elite cross-country competitor and will be the man to beat on Sunday as he won the first Ontario Cup race near Uxbridge three weeks ago. Younger brother George, who races in the downhill on Saturday, ended up in second in the first Ontario Cup downhill race, but is appealing the placement with the Ontario Cycling Association. He had finished first, but was bumped to second when race officials added time to eve-

ryone's second run.

The first place finish was Paul's best showing in four of five years racing as a senior and the 45 km race, five laps of the course, was a tactical one.

"We all had to take our turn and work together and it was more like a road race," Paul explained as he recounted his win.

"A couple of us stayed back of the pack for most of the race and broke off at the end with about five minutes left in the race. In the last five minutes of the race we got messed up with some lapped riders but I was able to get away a little bit," he said.

Paul, George are 1,2 in Ontario cup

"I was kind of surprised to win this race because I'm training through some of these races, trying to peak for the first Canada Cup race next month in Orillia."

Paul races on a 22-pound, state-of-the-art mountain bike valued at \$4,300 and supplied by his sponsor, Outdoor Gear Canada. He trains 20 hours - 600 kilometres - a week on an equally expensive but sturdier, road bike.

When asked what his goals are Cobham said that it's a little too early for him to be thinking about the Olympics, adding, "That's what I tell people anyway."

Cobham began serious

mountain biking when he was a Grade 9 student at St. John's Kilmarnock School. He really wanted a motorcycle but his parents "weren't too keen on that" so he settled for a mountain bike.

After graduating from the University of Western last year, Paul has devoted all of his time to training and although at this point the sport is a hobby and a lifestyle, he said that he couldn't see it ever being a career.

"Last summer I said that I would see how I did and if I did well I'd keep going. I did do well so now I'm saying that again - I'll see how this season goes."

Carmela Cobham is confident Paul will qualify for the Worlds in Quebec in September - so confident that she's already booked accommodations for her family.

Aquaducks keeping heads above water

By ANGELA TYLER
 The New Tanner

Faced with an upcoming 15% increase in fees for the use of the Acton Pool, the Acton Aquaducks Swim Club are working overtime to cover their costs.

Twenty-one students ranging in age from 10 to 16 swim with the club from September to June. "It's a long season," noted Aquaduck mom Helen Colvin, "there is a lot of commitment from the kids and the families."

The local swimming club attracts swimmers from Acton and the surrounding area with quite a few members from the Erin area.

Although in previous years, Colvin said, "we've struggled" in regards to meeting the funds needed for the club, this year has been a better year for the Aquaducks. With parent volunteers from the club, the group participates in profit sharing at Country Bingo on Highway 25 near Milton. Local non-profit groups in the Bingo Association accumulate profits and share amongst the groups. Each Aquaduck family needs to volunteer at Country Bingo monthly to help raise money.

"It costs us \$1300 per month just for the use of the pool," Colvin said. In addition to the cost of the pool, there is the cost of the two coaches. To travel to swim meets, the swimmers rely on

car pooling and parent volunteers.

"This year the kids have sold chocolate bars to help raise funds and we just completed our swim-a-thon" Colvin noted. The swim-a-thon on March 27 raised \$1,114.60, not even enough to pay for one month's use of the pool.

The Aquaducks have been fortunate to have Glenlea Drug Mart contribute financially to the group, as well as some local service groups.

Although the pool fees are increasing, the swim club has decided to hold membership fees for next year's season which starts in September. There are three sessions per year in which swimmers can participate in a 3 hour group (per week) or a 6 1/2 hour group. Fees range from \$110 per session to \$150 per session, per swimmer.

"Some of these kids have spent more than half of their lives in the pool" Colvin said, "they just keep swimming and swimming."

If you would like further information on the club or are interested in helping financially you can contact Helen Colvin, 853-0162.

Family twosomes take three thirds

Acton bowlers had three third place finishes at the Family Twosome Zone finals in Oakville on Sunday.

The mother and daughter team of Deb and Samantha Mills won third place in the senior division with a score of 914. Mom Lynne Dyson and son McKenzie bowled 1,018 to take third place in the peewee division and father and son team Dave and Jonathan Uiterwyk bowled 959 for third place in the bantam division.

Father and daughter, John and Kayla Wagg, took fourth place in the bantam division with 934 and mom and son Linda and Ryan Wagg were fifth with 916.

Father and son Cliff and Kyle Creasey bowled 854 for ninth place in the junior division and dad and son Dave and at Mills bowled 983 for a fourth place finish in the peewee division.

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