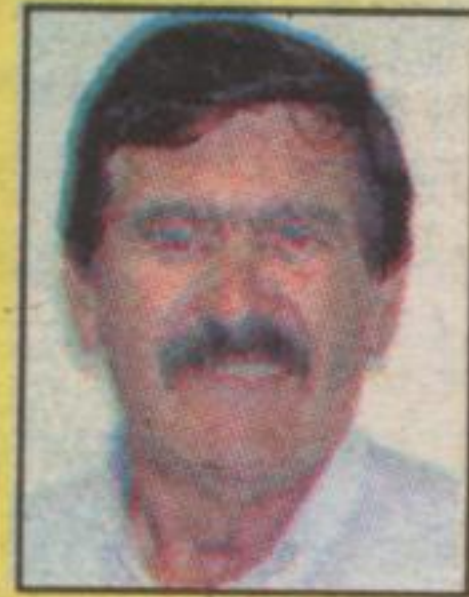




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To raise awareness of water resources Cyclist's cross-country trek ends

Bruce Davison's 7,781-km bike ride across Canada at times seemed like it would never end. But Davison knew it would.

The Halton Hills resident feels the same way about Canada's water. Though he says, "most people believe there is a super abundance of water," Davison believes Canadians must become more conservative in their use of water.

Davison left Vancouver in May with two goals in mind—to see and learn about his country and to raise awareness about water resources.

Davison rode six to 10 hours a day and was accompanied by another rider to Winnipeg, but was on his own the rest of the way. Though he rode over mountains and rode into strong winds, they were nothing compared to the bugs in Northern Ontario.

"I heard stories about them but I didn't realize it was that bad," said the University of Waterloo student who will be

returning for graduate studies. "You would unzip your tent, jump in as quick as you could and there would still be 300 blackflies in there."

Davison also had a run-in with a bear after he made the mistake of having food in his tent.

Along the way, Davison used the trip to gather information, stopping and touring water treatment plants and meeting with people who work in related industries. He said he had some success in educating people about how water is used. For instance, Canada uses more water per person than any other country except for the U.S., but the U.S. has taken steps to become more efficient. As he discovered on his trip, so have some Canadian cities.

For example, some cities have switched to a metered water where people pay for the amount they use. Others offered rebate programs for switching to low-flow showerheads and toilets.

"People are more likely to



Bruce Davison shows the route he took in his cross-Canada bike ride. Davison did the ride to see the country and to raise awareness for protecting water resources.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

conserve or pay attention to things that are wasting water if they are paying for it," he said.

Davison said some areas, such as the prairies where irrigation is used extensively, may not be able to reduce their usage as much but that it is still possible.

"Everywhere there's room to use less but it's the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway area that has a real problem. There are a lot more opportunities to use less," he

said. "If we use too much water it will hurt us environmentally, economically and other ways if we don't cut back on our use."

Davison was also promoting Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and has established a website (<http://waterwheels.uwaterloo.ca>) to provide information about water conservation.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



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RECREATION & PARKS NEW FITNESS PROGRAMS



We have added a new daytime 'Cardio Mix' Fitness Class at the Acton Community Centre on Tuesday and/or Friday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. Cost is \$51.03/10 weeks for one morning or \$94.89/10 weeks for two mornings (this class was formerly held at St. Alban's Church). Babysitting will be available for this program.

Don't forget our other great fitness programs such as the Cardio Mix we offer in the evening, Water Exercises, Step It Up and our NEW daytime Beginner Yoga class. Pre-registration is required for all Recreation & Parks programs. Please call (905) 873-2601, ext. 2275 for more information. 155

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2000 Miss Acton Fall Fair Pageant
Friday, September 15, 2000

Rehearsal: Thursday, September 14, 2000
7:00 p.m. in the tent at Prospect Park

Contestants should be 16 years of age or older and live in Acton, Rockwood, Ballinafad, or Limehouse or attend Acton High School. Agricultural knowledge is not necessary, but general knowledge of the Town of Acton is required. Make-up services will be provided by Features the night of the pageant.

2000 Speech Topics
1. Agriculture 2. Importance of Community Involvement
3. Acton Fall Fair 4. Any other approved topic

For further information or to sign up, contact Linda Robson 853-1591.
Contestants can sign up at the rehearsal on Thursday night.

Do you drink water from a private well?

If you do

- Please remember to have the well water tested regularly, once in the spring and once in the fall.
- Pick up a sample bottle for free well water testing at your local public health department.

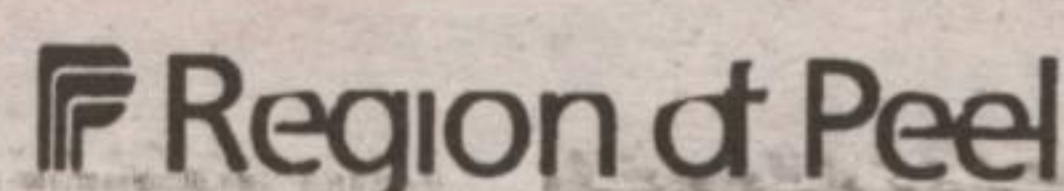
For Residents of Peel, you can obtain a water sampling bottle at the following Region of Peel, Environmental Health locations:

- 150 Central Park Drive, Lower Level, Brampton, ON L6T 2T9 (Until December 2000)
- 44 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, ON L6T 4M8 (From January 2001)
- 3038 Hurontario St., Mississauga, ON L5B 3B9

You can also talk to a Peel Public Health Inspector by calling Health Line Peel at (905) 799-7700

Caledon residents may call (905) 584-2216 toll free and long-distance callers can call 1-888-919-7800

For more information on Peel Health visit our web site at www.region.peel.on.ca



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