



Wendy Grandman and her dog Hogan from Team Canine performed a freestyle disc dog routine at the Georgetown Fall Fair Sunday afternoon. *Photos by Sabrina Byrnes*

# Rain can't spoil Fall Fair fun

**BRENNA MOORE**  
Special to The IFP

Years of tradition held strong this past weekend at the 160th Georgetown Fall Fair.

Although the weekend weather started off rainy and windy, the clouds cleared Saturday afternoon and by Sunday the sun was shining bright.

"Considering the rain, attendance was good," said Colin Dyble, a member of the Georgetown Agricultural Society (GAS) which puts on the fair. "There was a good crowd once the rain stopped."

Area residents were drawn to the event for all the old favourites that bring them back year after year.

"We come for the rides and the atmosphere," said Kathy Armstrong, visiting the fair with her family. "It's just good old-fashioned fun."

Winner of the 2006 Georgetown Fair Ambassador competition, Emily Dobson, sees the fair as being valuable to the community.

"It brings everyone together. It's something that's social and fun for everyone," said Dobson. "Here you can learn more about agriculture and it's very entertaining."

One of the most popular features of the fair is the midway and organizers were expecting it to be of good quality this year. With 12 rides and many games, by Funland Outdoor Amusements, visitors were not disappointed.

"It has a lot of fun rides. They go so fast," said Mitchell MacLeod, 9.

The Education Tent drew crowds wanting the chance to get up close with the animals and learn more about farming.

"I like getting to see the animals so close," said Jessica Herber, 12. "I usually don't get to see them because I live in town."

Fourteen classes passed through the tent on Friday for Education Day. Groups spent 15 minutes at each station to learn more about the various aspects of animals, farming and the environment.

"It's a way for the community to connect with each other," said Tunde Otto-Harris, member of the Willow Park Ecology Centre. "The tent exposes aspects that are very important. It's very hands-on so the kids enjoy it."

The Georgetown Agricultural Society sees the Education



Isabella Montana, 7, enjoys a midway ride at the Georgetown Fall Fair Sunday afternoon.

Tent to be essential, especially to those who don't have an agricultural background.

"With urbanization being seen more and more, kids aren't exposed to an agricultural experience," said Dave Shrubsole, second vice-president of the Georgetown Agricultural Society. "There are many kids who don't understand where food comes from and the process to get it. It's important to understand it so you can appreciate it."

Shrubsole said the Georgetown Agricultural Society also aims to dispel myths about animals in farming.

Dobson also recognizes the significance of educating about agriculture in our community.

"As ambassador, I hope to teach kids more about agriculture and tell them the importance of the fall fair to our town," said Dobson.

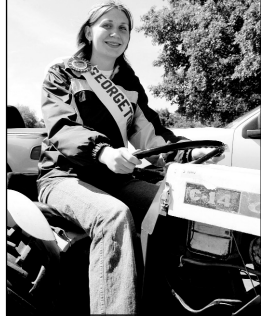
The tradition continued at the homecraft exhibits as area residents were encouraged to walk through and see the fruits—and veggies—of their neighbours' efforts. Exhibits range from produce and baking to crafts and photos.

"As people pass through the exhibit they love to see the crafts and baking. It really brings the agriculture to the city," said Glenda Benton, a member of the GAS.

The demolition derby, one of the fair's biggest highlights, had a great turnout Saturday night, according to organizers.

"The crowds started coming once the rain stopped, and the bleachers were full for the derby," said Shrubsole. "The derby usually is one of the biggest attractions."

The Society is looking for new members. If interested, call John Nurse at 905-702-4110 or 905-873-6157.



**EMILY DOBSON**

# Georgetown man succumbs to cold Lake Ont. water

Continued from pg. 1

He said throughout the experience rage built inside because he had his father in his arms and just wanted to get Sutton to safety.

"This is a dream and I want it to end right now," he recalled thinking, but since it wasn't, he thought about his mother and his girlfriend's 14-month-old baby.

"I wanted to do more, but I couldn't," he said. "I wasn't going to let my father go."

Several fishing boats passed by, but nobody saw them, until one passerby finally noticed them and immediately radioed a distress signal around 11 a.m.

That was when police and other boaters converged on the scene to mount the rescue.

Richards, a shipper and receiver with PL Foods in Georgetown, and Sutton were taken to Trillium Health Centre. Sutton was discharged late Sunday afternoon, while Richards was kept overnight for observation.

Richards said his father, whose passion was fishing, was on disability from a workplace accident in a brake factory that had resulted in his right leg being amputated.

He said his father, whom he called his dearest friend, had taken part in countless fishing derbies in the area over the decades.

"All I know is that I won't step on another boat," said Richards. "I may not even go fishing anymore. It was 'our' thing."

Among the first on the rescue scene were Peter Fairweather and Dan Lotual of Oakville, who found Bryan Richards and Sutton shivering in another fisherman's boat.

Richards was reaching over the stern holding onto his father's leg, unable to pull him over the gunwhale.

"There was no way to hoist him. He was a pretty big guy," said Fairweather.

They hooked a rope around Richards' leg so his son could be treated by police and paramedics.

Roger Richards' brother-in-law John (Jack) Stufko of Georgetown said the man was going to be "greatly missed."

"He had a heart as big as all outdoors and he would help anyone," said Stufko, who added the man was not only his brother-in-law, but his best friend.

"He's helped Linda (Stufko's spouse) and I out so much in the past," he said.

He said Richards loved fishing and had fished all over Ontario.

He said although his boat was called the *Left-Handed Newfie*, his brother-in-law was not from Newfoundland. He moved to Canada from England several years ago and had lived in Georgetown for about 30 years.

"That (the boat's name) was a trademark of Roger's sense of humour. He was a real character," said Stufko, who believes Richards named the boat after a friend.

Stufko said Richards had health problems as he was diabetic and had suffered a heart attack in the past. He believes he suffered a heart attack in the water Sunday.

At press time a spokesperson for Peel Regional Police said the results of a post mortem confirm that the cause of death was not drowning, and that Richards heart stoppage was due in part to hypothermia.


Richards is survived by his wife Donna, children Patrick and Bryan and his mother Sarah.

Visitation will be at J.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home tomorrow (Thursday) from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. The funeral and committal service will be held in the chapel Friday at 1 p.m.



## ZOOM TOOTH WHITENING SYSTEM

*Shade changes of 6 to 10 shades in about an hour*

 your smile says so much.

*Cosmetic Dentistry*

22 Guelph Street  
downtowngeorgetowndental.com

(905)877-4371