

Lifestyles

Young swimmer to attempt Lake Ontario crossing

Highly-determined teen confident about his chances of covering 51km

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Gregg Taylor hit the water almost immediately after hitting the world.

In the pool at a mere two weeks of age — and rarely dry for long periods since then — he simply can't envision his life without swimming.

Now the 19-year-old pool shark is ready to take the ultimate plunge — a Lake Ontario crossing attempt slated for August 13.

The oldest grandchild of local swimming guru Carole Murray, Mr. Taylor seems awfully confident in his chances of taming the 51 kilometres between Niagara-on-the-Lake and Toronto.

But then spending one's life in water will do that.

"I know I can complete it," said the soft-spoken but self-assured teen, who spent last summer working at his grandmother's

"The key is to not kill myself in the first 100m. The weather will play a big factor as well, but I've got the endurance and I just need to stay focused. I'll do it."

GREGG TAYLOR

local swim academy.

Should Mr. Taylor cross successfully, he'll be the youngest person to ever do so — eclipsing an age mark set a decade ago by 20-year-old Carlos Costa. However, Lake Ontario's potential conqueror has an even bigger incentive driving him.

He's looking to achieve this feat in memory of his grandfather.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Carole Murray (left) will be rooting on her grandson Gregg Taylor when he attempts to become the youngest person to ever cross Lake Ontario August 13.

Hey — I'm not grandpa, I'm G-Man, thank you very much

It's a girl!

Not quite yet, but maybe by the time you read this, or Monday at the latest.

My oldest daughter is having a baby and already knows it's a girl, leaving two unsettled issues, as far as I'm concerned, both having to do with names. Although, I'm not sure either one is an unsettled issue with her.

My suggestion for the baby's name is Bobbi. I think that sounds like it would be a fun person. I never knew anybody named Bobbi, apart from on Petticoat Junction, but if I knew somebody by that name I'd think they were fun, before I even met them.



with **MURRAY TOWNSEND**

On the loose

My other suggestion is Taylor — Taylor Townsend has a nice ring to it. And I like the name Payton.

Her aunt is suggesting Lily, which I think was the name of my great-great-great grandmother — or somebody's.

Not that it's not a nice name if it

happens to be yours, but names age. I couldn't imagine a baby with my name, for example.

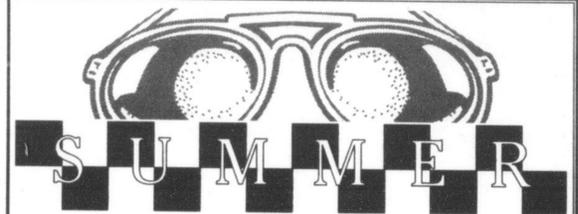
The name my daughter is leaning toward is Madison, which is nice, too. And it's winning by a slight margin — about 88-85 — over Bobbi in an informal poll. Lily so far has zero votes.

Even with people who pick Madison over Bobbi, I straight out lie to my daughter and tell her they picked Bobbi, just to try to influence her decision.

I think a name can be very important. I don't know how or why, but I'm sure there have been studies about how a person's name

• see **I'M** on page 12

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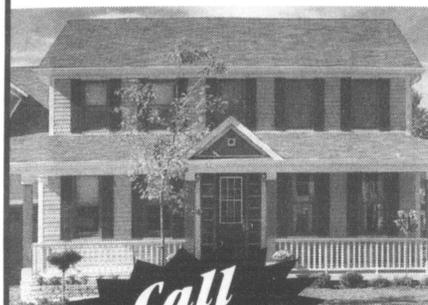
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