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The Ontario Sailing Association's BOOM Program held its Regional Regatta in Red Rock on August 3rd. Rhonda Larivee of Schreiber and Evan Grimm of Terrace Bay participated in the five race event. Rhonda placed ninth and Evan placed first out of ten students from towns including Dorion, Nipigon and Red Rock. Evan will be sailing in the provincial regatta in Toronto in early September. There will be 20 students, ages 8 to 13 years, from all over Ontario participating in this regatta with a first prize of \$500.

Waterfront program will develop tourism

The government of Ontario has announced a \$30 million program to develop municipal waterfronts.

The program to help develop municipal waterfronts will boost tourism, stimulate commercial development and increase economic activity throughout the province, Ontario Minister of Tourism and Recreation Hugh P. O'Neil has announced.

The \$30 million Community Waterfront Program is directed at Ontario municipalities with populations of 50,000 or less for the development of lake or river front projects which benefit tourism and recreation.

"The program will stimulate residential and commercial development, leading to major improvements in local economies and significant job creation,"

O'Neil said.

"Well planned waterfronts serve as focal points for entire communities, providing superlative recreation opportunities."

The program will be administered by the Ministry over five years.

Assistance will be in the form of non-repayable, matching contributions. For capital projects, communities can receive a grant up to one-third the total cost of the project or a maximum of \$500,000.

For planning and feasibility studies, up to \$50,000, or 50 per cent of the total cost, whichever is less, is available.

"The new program will strengthen the economies of smaller communities and foster healthier lifestyles for Ontarians," said O'Neil.

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Time to think about having chimney checked

Furnace and chimney inspections should be hot items at this time of year, says Bob Clendining of the Ontario Consumer Ministry.

"Don't wait until it's time to turn the furnace back on," says Clendining, a fuels safety expert. "Home-heating systems need to be thoroughly checked at least once a year. People can be seriously hurt - even killed - if something goes wrong. Now's the time to protect yourself."

Possible problems include blockage of the chimney and corrosion or deterioration inside the furnace.

Qualified home-heating contractors can check for potential hazards caused by malfunctioning furnaces and inadequate fresh air supplies, Clendining says.

"In some circumstances, improper combustion in gas or

oil-fired heating equipment can cause poisonous carbon monoxide gas to be released into the house," he says.

Carbon monoxide is a clear, colorless, odorless gas. Symptoms of poisoning include nausea, dizziness, fatigue, and headaches. In large doses, it can kill.

If it is suspected members of a household have been exposed to carbon monoxide in the past, tell the contractor doing the inspection, Clendining suggests. Be sure to ask for checks of all safety controls on the furnace.

Shop around for a reputable company and reasonable rates when arranging the service call, says Marilyn Gurevsky, a consumer advisor with the ministry.

"Since most people wait till the last minute to call for service, some contractors may be offering

bargains right now to attract customers before the rush starts," she says. "Just be wary of companies soliciting business door-to-door who push for an immediate decision."

Check all credentials carefully and don't hire a heating contractor not certified by the Ontario government.

Additional information about home heating systems is available from many fuel suppliers.

For general consumer information contact the Consumer Information Centre at 555 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2H6 or call (416) 963-1111 or toll free at 1-800-268-1142. Ontario residents with an 807 area code may call the 416 number collect. The TTY/TDD line for the hearing/speech impaired is (416) 963-0808.

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