

Marathon walk raises over \$30,000 for Union Villa

By Bob Hastings

UNIONVILLE — Steven Schmucker, a ten year old Unionville boy completed the twenty mile "Walk of Ages". So did dozens of other ten year olds but in his case there was a difference. Steven is totally blind.

Perhaps Steven best symbolized the concern and spirit shown by hundreds of young people who walked in aid of Union Villa, a proposed residence for senior citizens.

The older participants, though fewer in number, were not to be outdone by the younger generation. With the Claremont Citizens' Band striking up "Coming Through the Rye", Doctor A.C. Kennedy and his wife strolled across the same line that they had crossed more than eight hours earlier — at about the same pace. Dr. Kennedy admits to being in his eighty-third year while his wife takes the Jack Benny approach in regards to age. When asked to say a "few words", the kindly doctor explained, "We talked ourselves out on the route." And then he added, with a slight hint of pride, "We had a pretty good time we never sat down once."

The very word "Unionville" seemed so appropriate as people of all ages and persuasions



An estimated 1,250 persons took part in "Walk of Ages" for Union Villa, Saturday, raising more than \$30,000.

A portion of the crowd is pictured here, heading north from a starting point at the Unionville Arena. —Jas. Thomas

came together, not just to talk but also to walk for a common cause.

A rather festive feeling bubbled throughout the afternoon as the blister bearers hobbled across the finish line.

Runner, Ken Young of 26 Markham Street took the officials by surprise by checking in just two hours and forty-five minutes after the M.D.H.S. Band and the Collegettes had started the walkathons

on their way.

A trio of youngsters, Mike Weatherill, 14, and two fifteen year olds, Tom Otter and Brian Harper mixed walking and running to break the tape in four hours and two minutes. Mike and Tom are students of Mark II Senior School and Brian attends Don Head Secondary School.

Co-Chairmen, Peter and Diane Scott reported that about twelve hundred and

fifty people took part in the walk, compared with seven hundred and two, two years ago. Proceeds from that walk totalled \$23,000. This year's project is expected to net more than \$30,000.

To add to the carnival-like atmosphere, Tony Gundy complied to the wishes of one of his sponsors by wearing a full length gorilla outfit for the walk. Was it the heat that got to him most or the seven pounds he lost?

Neither one. It was the constant jibes he took, thanks to a current television commercial, about "jungle mouth".

Rosanne Kamps of Stouffville was just one of several participants with canine companions, who made the twenty miles. She and "Scamper", a German Shepherd, arrived after seven hours and twenty minutes of walking. The one hundred and sixty-three "bed" "villa" came closer to reality on



Twelve year old Kim Maynard, Wales Avenue, Markham, takes time out to cool her feet in a small stream

near the 7th concession, north of 18th Avenue. Kim raised over \$50 through pledges. —Jas. Thomas

May 2 with the laying of the cornerstone. Extended plans include the addition of fifty more beds, a day-care center and ultimately self contained apartments. The first girls to reach the tape were petite Holly Jackson and Kelly Hewson, who live in Varley Village. Pam Barrett, just two and a half years of age walked two and a half miles. Don Deacon, M.P.P. for York-North completed

the distance with his son Colin in time to exchange friendly banter with Markham Mayor, Alma Walker. In answer to his question about her condition for a walkathon, she replied, "I sponsored myself and then drove around the route". Wayne Kerr and Jody Brown who have yet to celebrate their seventh birthdays had only one comment about the state of

their extremities — familiar with little more "there". Little did they than an accelerator, a know that they spoke about brake pedal and an occasional clutch.

Oppose pit operators on gov't. committee

UXBRIDGE — Minister A.F. Lawrence of the Dept. of Mines failed to satisfy a gathering of ratepayers and councillors called at Uxbridge High School to hear of the proposed new Government regulations to govern gravel pit operations.

Mr. Lawrence told the audience he favored the government taking over the control of pits and the matter of rehabilitating the land.

(A watered-down version of the Uxbridge Township by-law to control the pits

was given Municipal Board approval the final day of 1969. Since then the government has moved into the picture and legislation is pending for this Fall which would put the administration fully under the Dept. of Mines. Uxbridge Council and councillors from surrounding municipalities, as well as many citizens feel that such government control would be "no control at all".

The Minister tried to assure the audience that

the government had no intention of interfering with those municipalities which had been trying to do something about the situation. He noted however, that most had not.

The government basis for control would require the pit operators to pay a levy of 1 cent a ton which money would go into a fund and only returned to the owners if they rehabilitated the land themselves. If they did not, the money so collected, would be used for this

purpose. Members of the Anti-Pollution Association charged that the government committee set up to study the problem completely excluded the people and their council representatives. It was composed of five pit operators and five civil servants.

The Minister was asked if any consideration had been given to bringing gravel by train from some more remote area. He replied that this too was under study. He added that

the free ride of the pit owners over the municipal council and to some extent the provincial government was about to come to an end.

Wilfred Gould from Uxbridge said he doubted if the government would have more success controlling the pit problem than the township.

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