



Stouffville resident Barry Stather runs Barry's Auto Repair in Markham, but still finds time to work on and race his stock car, a 1973 Camaro. Although unsponsored, he consistently finishes in the money every year.

## Driver on shoestring budget keeps finishing in the money

By Annegret Lamure  
STOUFFVILLE — "I got to be going full tilt all the time," explained Barry Stather as he restlessly shifted his wrench from one grease-blackened hand to the other. "I skate fast, bike fast, even drive my snowmobile fast. Speeds my thing." He paused a moment to wipe his grimy hands ineffectually on an equally grimy cloth. "The sudden stop fascinates me," he chuckled, showing very white teeth in a creased tanned face. He abandoned the cleaning effort and flicked the rag away. "I have to have a past-time," explained the stock car racer, "after all, I don't drink, don't smoke." He leaned back against a dusty Ford in for repairs, and firmly hooked his thumbs in his belt, "of course, if I didn't break even, I wouldn't run," he stated firmly.

Barry is that almost unheard of phenomena, an unsponsored stock car racer making money on the Ontario circuit, and he is very proud of it. "It's hard to make money. It costs about \$20,000, which I don't have to be competitive, but I only have about \$7,000," said Barry. He then explained how he managed to finish about \$2,000 in the black every year partly because his investment was modest.

"For example, if a driver has \$20,000 tied up in the car, he has to make \$22,000 in order to earn \$2,000," Barry explained. "Of course, he continued after a thoughtful silence, "if you have a sponsor, you don't care about the tires or blowing the motor; it would be alot easier to win."

Also, Barry pointed out, a sponsored driver is usually much better equipped. "Most of them have not one motor, but four of them. I'm chugging along on two." Different motors are needed for the various tracks according to Barry, and tires are an ever present expense. He finds that with careful driving his tires last about four races. "The more the tire wears out the slower the car goes," says Barry. Apparently a lot of racers change tires for every event. "Down at Flamboro, everybody bought tires," said Barry, who won the race down there, "but if I'd had to buy them, I would have been \$100 in the hole."

He had made \$500 in the race "Good pay for two hours work" according to him, but not enough to purchase wheel rubber worth \$150 apiece. Other racers can't understand how Barry keeps finishing in the money with the limited resources at his disposal. "They walk over to my car shaking their heads and say, 'How can you possibly run that car? They mean, without any trick stuff on it,'" Barry explained.

Adding to their bewilderment is the fact that Barry also builds and services his own cars; most sponsored racers have

their own mechanic. "Here I am, sitting in my garage, mucking around, and I do just as well," drawled Barry. In the eight years that he has been racing, Stather has indeed done very well. He was the international stock car champion in 1971 and has won innumerable trophy dashes. The only thing that bothers him is that his hobby is so closely related to his work. Barry has his own auto-repair business in Markham and finds working on cars in his spare time a bit of a busman's holiday. "I work on cars all day and then come home to tear down the engine on my Camaro," he said. "There's other things I could be doing," he suggested, "door to door salesman," for instance. His eyes glint mischievously behind his glasses at the prospect.

Stather has had a few close calls on the track, but claims that he'd much rather take his chances on the racecourse than on the street. "Anyway, I'm a rotten driver," he laughs, "I sure used to get a lot of speeding tickets."

While Barry may get into trouble on the streets occasionally, he is certainly expert at getting out of trouble on the race track. There was the time when he was coming down the straightaway at 140 mph, for instance, and the guy ahead of him had a front tire blowout. "I hit the left rear corner of his car," said Barry, "and the impact spun me completely around. I was still going 50 mph, coasting backwards. Since I couldn't stop, I

backed right around the track." He shrugged casually. "The other fellow hit the wall. His car was a complete write-off. But you see what I mean about racing being much safer than driving on the road. The other guy wasn't hurt at all, he walked away." Stather himself was involved in a "semi-wreck" as he put it. "I was running second when the guy in front of me blew his engine. He put oil and water all over the road. You can't stop in that," explained Barry, "if you put the brakes on, you

speed up." He ran his hands through his short-cropped hair and continued, "I hit the wall at 60 mph." Barry emerged with nothing more than a headache and a bent frame. "I just took the fenders off and beat them out," said Stather. "If a car's not bent, it doesn't look raced, anyway." Barry's biggest fans are his two older children, Lia-Anne, 8, and David, 6. "I take the kids with me," said Barry, "Give 'em each a couple of bucks and sit them in the stands. They really get a big kick out of it." However, he admits

that although he keeps an eye on the kids from the pits, the children are seldom visible in the stands. "They spend most of their time lining up for hot dogs and cokes, said Barry ruefully. His wife, Linda, never missed a race for years, but now stays home to look after the youngest Stather, 18-month-old Kyle. However, she is all in favour of a racing career for the fast-moving Stather. "It keeps him out of trouble," she explained, "at least I know where he is."

## Bob Morley is leader in bowling

STOUFFVILLE — A Monday night bowler led all the leagues in scoring this week. Bob Morley rolled a triple of 851 in the men's league. Other scores were: Joe Paynter, 819; Earl Rowe, 815; Gord Hardie, 708; Wayne McMann, 674; Rodger Todd, 745; Jack Chambers, 662; Bill White, 667; John Miller, 679; Robert Boake, 667; John Nicholson, 667; Byron Tuck, 743; Barry Irving, 681; Keith Barton, 692; Larry Brown, 682; Bob Campbell, 735; Ross Madill, 661; Rex Tolton, 659; Dave Ratcliff, 659.

Legion Ladies  
Anne Jackson, 682 (265, 244); Lois Bartley, 647 (226, 235); Miltzi Aida, 606 (235); Marion Grove, 241; Debbie Marshman, 237; Ruth Winterstein, 230; Lynda Bonchaf, 224; Deanne Poole, 217; Karen Foote, 213; Anne Fretz, 208; Betty Turner, 204, 207; Barb Zellers, 206; Mae Budd, 207. Wednesday Mixed  
Vern Ward, 741 (289, 219, 233); Marsha Vautier, 634 (208, 215, 224); Ron Vautier, 634 (218, 244); Joan McCracken, 619 (211, 200, 208); Chris McGivern, 602 (238, 205); Larry Hutchinson, 229; Marvin Clark, 263; Brent Gibson, 212, 200; Gord Ritter, 202; Bruce Johnson, 251; Bill Card, 231, 203; Steve Harrison, 238; Gary Roper, 246.

Tuesday Night Mixed  
June Vliek, 661 (224, 225, 212); Bud Feaver, 644 (257, 208, 215); Keith Leach, 627 (270); Frank Wilbur (615, 228); Fred Vliek, 603 (229, 215); Darlene Johnston, 256; Arlene Butson, 240; Neil Logan, 220; Norm Faulkner, 207, 215; Linda Wagg, 222; Randy Lee, 203.

Thurs. Night Ladies  
Lois Barker, 687 (256, 227, 204); Doris Redquest, 262, 220; Linda Todd, 207; Sheila Nutt, 254, 204; Barbi Melhuish, 211; Barb Watts, 202; Joanne Harper, 202; Muriel Illingsworth, 201; Kathy Graves, 295; Jill Vaughan, 225, 200; Marg McLean, 204.

Thurs. At. Ladies  
May Spence, 657 (275); Anne Fretz, 266, 206; Sadie Greenshields, 214; Mary McLean, 225, 225, 227; Betty Hoey, 223, 206; Gaye Lehman, 207; Ev. McKay, 214; Bernice Nelson, 204; Mary Moffatt, 204; Mildred Ash, 204; Maxine Lewis, 221.

Bantam Bowlers  
Over 125  
Michael Burrows, 134, 152; Kim Tuck, 154, 191; Mark Butson, 146, 128; Allan McLean, 134, 137; Sandra Blacklock, 133; David McCracken, 123, 172; Craig Vaughan, 129; Andrew Long, 132; Norman Doble, 200, 183.

Over 250 double  
Michael Burrows, 286; Kim Tuck, 345; Mark Butson, 274; Allan McLean, 271.

David McCracken, 305; Craig Vaughan, 310; Norman Doble 383.

Junior League  
Top bowler — Sheila Ward 589 (199, 213, 177).  
Over 500  
David Erikson 559 (200, 205, 154); Susan Armstrong, 558 (274, 153, 121); Steve Ireland, 542 (196, 136, 210); Karen Sleeth, 547 (200, 175, 172); Charles Minaker, 508 (166, 149, 193); Shelley Nesbitt, 502 (175, 162, 165); Anndy Vaughan, 502 (152, 164, 184).

Over 125  
Gord Leatherdale, 149; Alan McCain, 190; Scott Long, 146, 159, 129; Kim Sleeth, 138, 220, 126; Kelly Long, 142, 159; Kevin Dunkeld, 131, 141; Alan Peak, 133; Gwen Shadlock, 141, 141, 195; Wally Blacklock, 127; Tim Dart, 157, 138; Donna Chambers, 149, 149, 130; Jimmy Vaughan, 144, 148; Julie Ireland, 127, 173, 144; Teresa Ewing, 173, 177; Julie Chambers, 207, 156; Leslie Erikson, 125; Jill Watson, 128; Todd Marshman, 132, 172; Liana Appleton, 172, 130; Elvina Tolton, 135, 136; Lisa Erikson, 144, 158; Carrie Burd, 184, 164; Joanne Dart, 153, 155, 152; Todd Ransome, 130; Mark Doble, 128; Derek Schope 151.

Wed. 7 p.m. Mixed  
Bill Dart, 716 (250, 227, 239); Tom Wood 616 (260); Gord Duck, 642 (279); Grant Drewery, 629 (261, 208); Bill Peiri, 601 (280); Bob Sleeth, 753 (281, 229, 243); Al McVicar, 600 (219); Barb Menar, 633 (200, 255); Stan Crust, 214; Mary Drewery, 209; Nancy Armstrong, 231; Jean Dart, 200; Terry McVicar, 216; Howie Lockhart, 233; John Morrow, 212.

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