

Winning speeches

Cross-countrying, dinosaurs

STOUFFVILLE — Two St. Mark's Separate School students walked off with top honours in the Stouffville Lion's Club public speaking contest. Cathy Morin and Tim Blommesteyn, both in grade 6, are the champions for the Stouffville area. Their speeches are reprinted below.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Until four or five years ago, cross country skiing was rarely seen in Canada. Now that it is steadily increasing with newcomers, it has

become one of Canada's favorite winter sports. Its history goes back about 4000 years. It was seen in cave drawings found in Siberia, Finland and Norway were also skiing in these early times but their skis were somewhat different from those seen in Siberia. Theirs were short and broad, to give them more speed. They also had fur on the bottom to give them traction.

In 1521 a Swedish patriot named Gustav Vasa skied a great distance to reach some of his fellow countrymen and lead them into the battle that freed them from Danish control.

The first famous North American skier was John Snowshoe Thompson, a Norwegian immigrant that skied the U.S. mail route from California to Nevada in the 1850's. Today, the most popular skier would be Herman "Jackrabbit" Johansson, who is called the father of cross-country skiing. He also invented the ski lift. Even though he is 102 years old, he still skis at least an hour a day.

Herman "Jackrabbit" Johansson is a perfect example that it does not matter what age you are, you can still go cross-country skiing and enjoy it. Also, cross country skiing keeps you fit. For anyone who can walk, cross country skiing is a perfect recreational exercise. The pace is up to you.

Cross country skiing is a family sport and very rarely are there any accidents. Also, it is cheaper than paying downhill ski tow fees.

Cross country skiing, often called ski touring, is several sports in one. Each presents its own challenges and thrills. Here are some of the types of cross country skiing. Light touring, the main sport in cross country skiing, is mostly done on conservation areas, golf courses and parks. For the beginner, this is the best sport.

General touring is cross country skiing in the wilderness areas,

with rugged terrain, deep snow, plenty of trees and hills. This kind of skiing is better for the experienced skier who likes rugged country.

Mountaineering is the toughest sport yet. It is mostly done on mountain snow fields and glaciers. Mountaineering is perfect for the hiker. The equipment used is a combination of alpine and general touring equipment.

Cross country skiing equipment is far cheaper than alpine ski equipment. The most important piece of equipment is the boot, because if it is a misfit it spoils all the fun of cross country skiing. The skis come in a variety of sizes and prices.

The material most used in the construction of skis is wood. The poles are made of bamboo.

When you go cross country skiing, you should not overdress, as it is better to be on the chilly side in the beginning. Eventually, you will warm up because you are burning up so many calories.

In conclusion, I would like to say that cross country skiing is a healthy, family sport and one I'm sure you will enjoy.

Honorable Judges, Ladies and Gentlemen, and fellow competitors: I would like to take this opportunity of telling you my theory of the dinosaurs' extinction. There are numerous theories, many of which I think possible. Therefore, I am simply surmising at this one.

Tyrannosaurus Rex was a mighty king, but not mighty enough to withstand the coming heat. The reptiles arose on the last day to a world that was slowly being suffocated by heat. The spring they drank from had long since gone dry and become no more than a mud pool on the ground. The reptiles established themselves closer and closer to the lake. Finally there was one lake every fifty or sixty miles, so reptiles came from far and wide to drink from that lake. Once again, the Tyrant King began to thunder for everyone to clear the way so he could pass, but Triceratops, driven to madness by his thirst, made a lunge at the giant. Rex, bewildered and surprised at this sudden change in behavior, backed away. Triceratops, angered by this move, thundered towards Rex and slashed a horn clear through his lower leg. The King's small brain now realized in full the situation as this new sensation called pain stung his body. He stumbled toward his enemy and brought his teeth down on the Trice's back with a great crunching sound. The Trice bellowed with pain and, as soon as Rex released his hold, the Trice made a last attempt to kill Rex. When this failed, he tried again. He would not admit defeat until he was killed. And so, between the reptiles fighting and killing among themselves, and the lake drying up, the dinosaurs became less and less the inhabitants of the earth. Soon they were forced to move on again, driven by thirst. In unknown territory, they were helpless. Many were doomed to die in the tar pits and others had the

fate of slowly suffocating by heat. The plant eaters died off soon from lack of plants to eat, but the meat eaters lived on each other.

At last the final day came. An Allosaurus and the King was left. The battle was on! But wait! A strange dizzy faintness, partly from thirst, partly from hunger, came over the Allosaurus. He stopped fighting and that was his fatal mistake. The King sank his teeth into the neck of the Allosaurus and the giant fell to the ground. So the King would be the last to die! As he bent down to send his teeth into the flesh of the Allosaurus, he felt a strang dizziness coming on. The King let out an agonized gasp and his head sank to the ground. Heat had conquered the mighty race of the dinosaurs.

Thank you.

Cathy Morin
St. Mark's School
Grade 6.



The slope leading to the lake at Bruce's Mill is a popular toboggan run. The couple above takes off within exuberant spray of snow. The fact that they're sliding off their tiny toboggan doesn't seem to dampen their enthusiasm in the slightest.

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STOUFFVILLE SCENE What's going on

Public speaking

The Oral Communication and Public Speaking Contest sponsored by Stouffville Lions Club was held at Stouffville & District Secondary School on Jan. 31st at 7:30 p.m. Excellent speeches were made by all contestants, making the competition keen. Judges were Miss Margaret Hosie, Mr. Gordon Ness and Dr. Wm. Murphy. The meeting was chaired by Rev. J.L. Carder, chairman of the Lions Public Speaking committee. Cheques and trophies were awarded as follows: 1st place — girls Cathy Morin; 1st place boys — Tim Blommesteyn; 2nd place girls — Ellen Dowswell; 2nd place boys — Patrick Duncalfe; 3rd place girls — Wanda Couperthwaite & Lynn Stacey; 3rd.

The public speaking competition for grades 9-13 will be held at the Masonic Hall on March 13th.

Trix with Mix

Come out to the Food Forum and learn how you can prepare and use the Ready Biscuit Mix. See recipes demonstrated, taste the results and pick up some practical hints at the Food Forum, "Tricks with a Mix". Anyone attending receives a booklet full of tasty recipes using the basic mix. So take out your date books and write down the date of the Food Forum: February 8th, Wednesday, 1:30-3:00 p.m. Victoria Square, Community Centre (Southwest corner of Elgin Mills Road and Don Mills Road)

Memorial Fund

The Anne Lehman Memorial Fund has presented a cheque in the amount of \$75.91 to Parkview Home, to be used toward the purchase of a whirlpool bath.

Camera Club exhibition

The Stouffville Centennial Camera Club, now a year old, will be holding its first public exhibition of photographic art starting February 13, at the Whitchurch Stouffville Public Library. It will feature colour and black and white prints produced by members of the club. There will also be a showing of slides. This is not a competition — no prizes will be awarded, no criticisms offered. This is chance for the people of Whitchurch-Stouffville to see the progress of some of the

more enthusiastic photographers in the area. All are welcome.

Spectators interested in joining the club will be welcomed at future meetings, held on the second Thursday of each month at the library. The fee is \$10 a year and all that is required is a camera and some enthusiasm. There are professional and experienced photographers to help, field trips to use of members, seminars to join and shows.

One parent shows A series of television shows, presented by the Markham Chapter of the One Parent Families Association, will be shown on Cable 10.

The program begins Feb. 15, 7 p.m. and will run for six consecutive Wednesday evenings.

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