

# Annual canoe trip a challenge for St. John's School students

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Jonathan Kenny is a Markham resident and a Grade 9 student at St. John's School of Ontario near Claremont. Recently Jonathan and 52 other students and staff members embarked on a 14-day canoe trip through the wilds of Northern Ontario. The following is a day-by-day account of the trip from his diary.

August 25

First day of training camp. We arrived at school at noon. It was organized but busy as our clothing and gear were checked. I met Andrew Langford, also from Markham, later at the Uxbridge swimming pool. We practised mouth to mouth resuscitation and our ability to swim was checked.

Back at school, partners were assigned and we put up the tents. I was assigned a tent with two other students. After chapel, we went to bed.

August 26

It was a long bus trip. We slept, talked and were rowdy. Finally we arrived at Flatrapids near Sudbury. The canoes were put into the water. We practised paddling and then headed for Flowerpot Bay, where we set up camp. From the campsite we had a view of Skeleton Island. The group was split into two brigades with one taking a southerly route and mine taking the northerly one.

August 27

In the morning we picked blueberries to put in Mr. Claydon's porridge. Then we practised pitching and taking down tents. We packed and left, passing Flatrapids camp and having lunch at Recolet Falls, where we learned of the fate of a group of missionaries many years before.

At Recolet Falls in the 1700s a group of missionaries over the falls in the dark. They probably couldn't swim, and wore heavy clothing with no life jackets.

During the day I was forbidden to sit on my sponge, a homemade pillow, because it raised my centre of gravity putting the canoe off balance (hardly!). Sometimes we got sore sitting on a wooden seat for long periods.

August 28

After breakfast we had dumping practise. The water was cold and I shivered and chattered. We had a life raft demonstration. After the cord was pulled it took six seconds to inflate the raft.

During lunch we saw a fish jump which must have weighed 20 lbs. or more. After more dumping practise, we paddled to some rapids close by. The teachers went to look at the rapids to where we could shoot them tomorrow. While they were away, one of the boys was splashing someone from shore with Mr. White's paddle. He lost his balance and fell in the water and nearly lost Mr. White's paddle down the rapids. We ended the day with a nice long swim.

August 29

This was the first day of the actual trip. We paddled back to Flatrapids where we telephoned the school to confirm that we were finished training and were leaving on the trip.

The brigade paddled up the French River to the Wanasiter. When we reached the first rapids we had lunch. We were told to stand back from the dangerous flow of water.

When we had completed our first short portage, we paddled against the current to an island where we camped. This last stretch of the day was dangerous because if we dumped we would be swept down the rapids. But the canoes all made it safely, although one canoe had to go back and start over because the current was too strong. We went swimming in the current of the rapids and had a good time.

August 30

It was a miserably wet rainy morning and we started with a 300-yd. gunwall (carried a fully-loaded canoe) over some rapids. Mr. White tried to track the first canoe (pulled it by ropes up the rapids) but it dumped in the process. Mr. White was dragged into the edge of the water before his rescuers could get their hands on the rope. If the canoe had gone down the rapids it might have been smashed to pieces.

August 31

We had porridge for breakfast again (no sugar, we ran out), then started on our two-mile portage. We went half way, but the trail through the bush wasn't clear and was overgrown with brush. So we continued along a road with the packs and we camped on the edge of Atlee Lake. The canoes were still back on the road. A group of us marched back to get them. A kind man offered to put the canoes on his trailer. We couldn't refuse after walking 10 miles that day.

September 1  
We made our way through a series of lakes which were filled with water lilies. Eventually we arrived at the sponge portage.

This year the water level was higher and we pushed the canoes through the swamp instead of carrying them on our shoulders. At some places the water was waist deep. Later that day we portaged the canoes three km. up the wrong road. When we finally reached Belle Lake and set up camp a man told us we couldn't make a fire on his property, so we moved to another location. We had a difficult time setting up our tents in the dark.

September 2

It was cold damp miserable morning and we all drank our hot tea. After two short portages we arrived at David Lake and pitched an early camp. It was warm and cozy in our sleeping bags that night. Some of us stood round the fire to get warm.

September 3

Those boys who tried to grab a few extra minutes of sleep got dragged out of their tents by the bowsman. As we paddled along we could see the La Cloche mountains, their peaks piercing low-lying clouds. The weather was still cool as we started on the Great Mountain portage. The pack carriers were finished early and went back to help the canoe carriers who were very grateful. Mr Voss said it was the only time

he ever saw a brigade applaud when they were finished a portage.

We went through Great Mountain Lake and into Fish Lake where we camped. At our campsite we found a help sign, an old crate, a lot of wood with nails in it, and a wood toilet. We thought someone had been stranded there before. The cool weather and the colored leaves showed signs of the approaching autumn.

September 5

We slept late today and rested most of the morning. The kaibo (a hastily built toilet from a tree stump) was out in the open, so nobody used it in the daylight. We broke camp and we canoe 35 km. just outside a town called Killarney. We told ghost stories around the fire and I couldn't get to sleep that night.

September 6

We got up a sunrise and visited Killarney for breakfast. In all we did 40 km. that day. At the end of the day we paddled against heavy winds and it was very difficult.

September 7

Today we woke up late to discover we were windbound and as it turned out we could not complete the trip back to Flowerpot Bay up the French River.

We were just approaching a point on Georgian Bay that was totally exposed to the wind. We stayed at camp all day waiting for conditions to improve. We played

pocket chess, picked blueberries and tried to fish (unsuccessfully).

In the distance we could still see the mountains. After dinner we talked about the trip. We looked back on all the good and bad times. Some of us realized that they learned something from the trip. All the hardship that we went through together brought us closer together. We became better friends because we helped each other out.

September 8

We awoke, loaded the canoes and left Georgian Bay and back tracked into Colin's Inlet. From there we went down the Mezenazing River into Mezenazing Lake where we started our own Olympic races and also met up with the sister brigade. They also failed to complete the trip due to the wind.

Canada was in first most of the way in the Olympic race. England, where I paddled, trailed behind. The U.S.A. burned out within three minutes and France stopped to pick up Canada's map. Canada won the gold with England one-foot behind. Our spirits were very high and we all cheered when we got to the end.

We camped on Mezenazing Lake that night and the next day a bus took us back to our waiting parents. Bacon and eggs tasted better than the porridge we'd become accustomed too.



Adrian Glauser, a Grade 10 student at St. John's School of Ontario near Claremont, made sure to take lots of photographs during the annual wilderness canoe trip. He managed to catch some members of the St. John's party while they weren't hard at work tracing the old voyager route around the north end of Georgian Bay. Pictured are (clockwise from top left): Steve Clark, teacher; old boy Ian Harling, a veteran of over 50 days in the wilderness; Paul Edwards, teacher; Norm Bindon, father of one of the boys; brigade leader Michael Hutt; teacher Chris Goodyear; and St. John's headmaster Dave Hutt.

—Adrian Glauser



## Rain fails to dampen spirits

Participants in the St. John's School of Ontario annual canoe trip seemed to be able to smile rain or shine. Here teacher Kirby White (rear) waves for a photograph taken by Adrian Glauser near Whitefish Falls. Adrian, 15, of West Hill,

attends the Claremont-based school. He and the rest of the group paddled and portaged along a route at the top of Georgian Bay. The group returned home Sept. 9.

—Adrian Glauser

## Late Edward Pascoe A kind neighbor

GREENWOOD — "We'll miss him. We'd look out in the morning to find our driveway completely plowed. Even when it hadn't snowed very much, he'd be there. He was that kind of person, always helping others."

These and other affectionate words were spoken of Edward Pascoe following his passing at the Dr. J.O. Ruddy Hospital, Whitby, Sept. 10. He'd been in declining health about a year.

Born in East Whitby Township, March 19, 1902, the son of Oliver and Nettie Pascoe, Mr Pascoe farmed on the Base Line of Pickering before moving to Greenwood where he was a resident 40 years.

Mr Pascoe was an extremely handy man and put this skill to use in the employ of the late Charles McTaggart, also of Greenwood. He also worked for the firm of Weal and Cullen Nurseries almost ten years.

An excellent farmer, Ed Pascoe never lost his love for the soil. He had one of the finest gardens in the community.

He also loved horses and would attend fall fairs in the area mainly for the heavy horse shows.

He was also keenly interested in sports, both locally and on a national scale. In earlier years, he played football, softball and hockey. He was an enthusiastic follower of the Toronto Maple Leafs as well as teams in his own community. He enjoyed hunting and ice-fishing. Playing euchre was also a favorite past-time.

Mr Pascoe's life touched many areas including Greenwood United Church where he served as a steward and elder. He seldom missed a Sunday service.

Besides his wife, the former Susie Stanley, he is survived by four sons, Lloyd of Port Perry, Allan in Stouffville, Neil and Grant of Greenwood; one daughter, Jean (Mrs. Jim Thomas) of Stouffville; fifteen grandchildren—Jackie Little, Susan, Barry, Paul, Cathy, Neil and Mary-Lynn Thomas; Todd, Scott and Jason Pascoe; Kim, Dale, Brian, Chris and Jeff Pascoe; also two great-granddaughters, Nicole and Megan.

Hundreds called at the McEachnie Funeral Home, Pickering, and later attended the service, Thursday, conducted by Rev. Melvin Butler of Greenwood Un-

ited Church. Interment was at West Mount Cemetery, Whitby.

Pall-bearers were nephews Ronald and Gerald Pascoe, David Stanley, Kenneth MacDonald, John Fawcett and a close friend from the Weal and Cullen firm, Robert Leni.



## A basket of flowers for Susan

Susan Fish (right), Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Culture, had a pleasant surprise Sunday during a visit to Pickering Museum Village, Greenwood. She was presented with a large flower basket from Pickering resident Alleen Howes, on behalf of all

museum volunteers. The minister expressed thanks for the kind gesture, and praised the workers for their help in preserving the area's historic past. Mrs. Howes is a member of a local gardening group known as Tap Roots.

—Chris Shanahan

## Durham Board of Education

# New plan geared for excellence

DURHAM REGION — The Durham Board of Education has adopted a new management plan designed to continually improve the quality of classroom education.

Bruce Mather, Durham's director of education, said he feels excellent instruction will produce graduates better able to think for themselves when they join the workforce or pursue further studies.

The Board's new plan, approved by the Board of Trustees at a meeting Aug. 27, stresses the need to teach children such thinking

skills as problem solving and decision making, Mr. Mather explained.

"Part of the program must be knowledge and information dissemination, part of it must be basic skills, but it cannot be exclusively that. We've got to teach application skills," the director commented. "Once we've given children the knowledge and the basic skills, we've got to let them use them."

Mr. Mather said one of his fundamental beliefs is that society must ensure we're producing a thinking populace — "a group of adults that can

solve problems."

The development of thinking skills among students depends on the ability of teachers to meet the needs of every child, he added. Such adaptation is another of the management plan's goals.

"Teachers are being asked to modify programs to the best of their ability

to meet the needs of every child," Mr. Mather explained. "Rather than hire more and more teachers, we must teach the ones there now to be able to adapt their teaching to a diverse group of individuals in the classroom, so that each student receives a reasonably personalized education."

The plan also has implications for other aspects of education in Durham. Among the most important is a commitment by the Board to develop a core curriculum for all schools in the region.

"This doesn't mean that every classroom teacher will teach the same subject at the same

time in the same way to each child," Mr. Mather noted. Rather, the curriculum outlines will indicate what the student is expected to learn.

The new approach was developed after a series of interviews between the director and members of the staff, including teachers, principals and other administrators.

The Durham Board of Education serves approximately 47,000 students annually in Uxbridge Twp., Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa and Brock and Scar-gow Twp.

## Access chosen

commented councillor Don Jackson.

Upon completion in late February of 1985, the plant will produce \$2.5 million disposable butane lighters a month.

The site plan agreement calls for pavement of the sideroad so it can be used as an entrance to the 80-acre property.

However, it was agreed that the regional route would best serve the interests of the manufacturer and the municipality.

A site plan amendment is required in this instance, it was determined during a recent meeting.

Tokai is building a lighter manufacturing facility at the northeast intersection of Regional Road 30 and Sideroad 20, Uxbridge Twp. It's on the property previously occupied by the Lazy Lake Trailer Park.

Major Bill Ballinger's motion supporting deletion of the part of the plan relating to Sideroad 20, was carried.

"It means they're entering on the highway," the mayor noted, "that's what we wanted."

The only way that sideroad will ever be paved is under the stipulations of this agreement,



THE YORK REGION BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Stouffville District Secondary School  
NIGHT SCHOOL UPDATE

The following courses still have room available.

- Antiques
- Apple Doll Crafts
- Art-oil and water colors
- Basketball and fitness for men
- Bridge
- Cake decorating
- Conversational French
- Flower arranging
- Furniture refinishing
- Guitar
- Knitting
- Patchwork and quilting
- Small engine repair
- Weight training for men
- Woodworking
- Tole and decorative painting (Tues.)

If interested in the above please phone Wed. or Thurs. evening after 7 p.m. 640-1433

All courses start on their respective nights the week of September 24th.

William R. Monroe R.A. Cressman  
Chairman Director of Education