

"Girl Next Door"

Diane's biggest thrill is dog-sled racing



She loves animals

Diane Vague of Ringwood is gaining recognition as one of the top dog-sled racers in the area. She's participated in several events this winter and won many awards. A lover of animals, Diane hopes some day to acquire a position with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

—Jim Thomas

By Jim Thomas
RINGWOOD — Mush!
This word may not be part of Diane Vague's vocabulary, but whatever command she uses, it produces results. Diane is a dog-sled racer and her skill at the sport is winning her respect across the country. Even in her first full season, she's won several awards.
Diane's our "Girl Next Door."
One of four in the family of Stuart and Alice Vague, Diane has always lived at Ringwood, (R.R. 2, Markham). Her three sisters are Carol Crane, Aurora; Marilyn Richards, Barrie and Linda Walton, Whitby.
Being a lover of animals, handling three Siberian Huskies in front of a sleigh comes naturally to Diane. Silver, Bullet and B.J. are regulars. Hobo sits on the sidelines and barks encouragement.

Is it dangerous?
"I've wiped out a couple of times," Diane says. An incline called "Suicide Hill" at Cold Creek Conservation Area, is a challenge for the most experienced of drivers.

Diane does some of her training on trails in the Vivian Forest. She transports the sleigh, (made by Bruce Carter, formerly of Stouffville), and the dogs, in a pick-up truck she bought for herself. Diane enjoys being busy. She's a full-time employee with Lay-All Drywall of Stouffville. She worked there part-time while at school. She also spent two years at the Stouffville Veterinary Clinic.

When she has a free weekend, she packs the dogs in her truck and heads for her employer's cottage. It's located on an island at Baptiste Lake near Bancroft. They either sled across or go by boat, depending on the season.

The Vague property is a sort of domestic animal zoo with pets galore, both inside the house and out. These include (or have included) dogs, ducks, rabbits, cats, goats, the list is long. Each is treated like one of the family.

Because of her love for animals, Diane hopes eventually to obtain a position with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Diane has other interests too. One is photography. She took a Night School course and operates her 35mm. camera with great skill. Her scene photos are beautiful.

She also assists her parents with the growing and selling of flowers and vegetables. Diane's pleasant personality plus a display of garden-fresh produce, give motorists two reasons to stop.



Establish clinic for Cabbage Patch Kids

Stedman's on Main Street, Stouffville, established a hospital clinic for Cabbage Patch Kids, Saturday, and the 'patient' list was long. Here, 'nurse' Shelley Williams takes Regina Zeldá's temperature while Regina's 'mother', ten-year-

old Joyce Lummiss of Hemlock Drive, Stouffville, looks on. Regina was declared in excellent health, requiring no needles or vitamin pills.

—Jim Thomas



KIM CAUDLE
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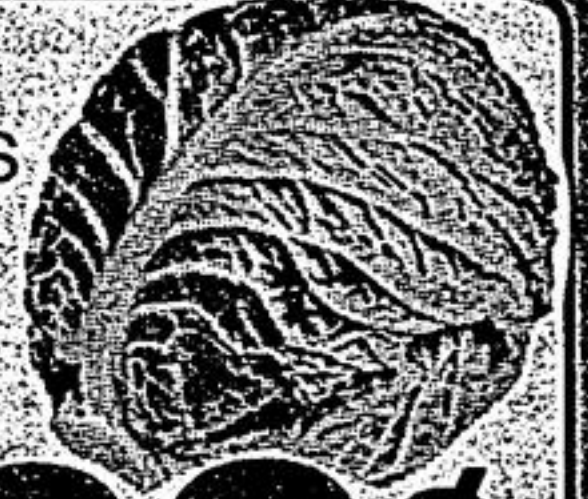


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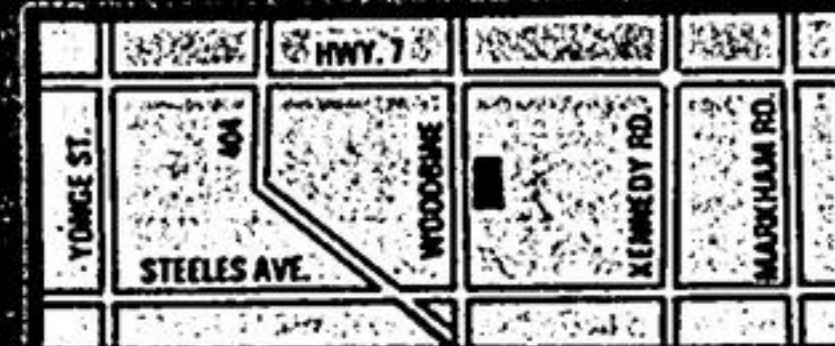
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