

# Winter marathon a gruelling test

**By BRUCE STAPLEY**  
In a contest that saw the competitors struggling against their own natural resistance to discomfort as well as their opponents' the students of St. John's School for Boys ran their annual marathon snowshoe race Saturday.

The competition is the cornerstone of the Claremont private school's winter activities program, with the 56 students being divided up into nine teams. The senior teams, consisting of Grade 9 and 10's, cover a gruelling 27 miles. The junior teams, made up of Grade 7 and 8's, do a 23 mile course.

The race typifies the entire philosophy of a school dedicated to catering to the needs of the whole boy, as opposed to restricting itself to academic development. And it's no picnic, a point not lost on the parents, who come from homes as far away as Detroit, Michigan, to be a part of the big day.

"I feel every ache, every pain, every blister my son is enduring," shared one parent. Near tears, she watched her boy strike out for the final six miles of the race, after a lunch stop that saw most boys applying ointments and dressings to feet rendered soak-

ing and sore by the heavy slugging.  
It's an ordeal the boys are always glad to have behind them, a character builder designed to show them they are capable of pushing themselves far beyond their perceived limits. The emphasis is on the team, not the individual. Everyone must finish, and a team becomes as fast as its weakest member. Team captains must find ways of motivating boys whose attitudes would have them slow the team down to a crawl.

"You get tired, but you can't let the others on the team know you're hurting," offered Shane Stapley of Stouffville, captain of the junior team that placed second. "We were dead last well after the half way mark, and it would have been easy to give up and worry about just finishing. But we dug down deep and came up with that extra effort to get us up to where we should have been all along."

First place in the senior competition went to the squad led by Adam Petersen of Scarborough. Daie Strano, of Toronto, was captain of the winning junior entry.

Unlike last year's race, which saw the winning senior teams separated by a matter of seconds at the thrilling finish, the winners

this time were in control all the way.  
Petersen and Strano credited their decided advantage to a disciplined approach, and a strategy that saw them charge out into an early lead, and then maintain a steady pace from there on.

Race coordinator Bill Fordham, of Markham, was pleased with the boys' efforts.  
"They all finished, and that in itself is an accomplishment in a race such as this," he said afterwards. "It's great to see an event like this where so many parents come out and get so actively involved in what their kids are doing." His son Robert is a student at the school.

Fordham, who has logged untold hours as the parent-in-charge of the support group which assists the school in its operation, felt the weather conditions had been close to ideal for the big race.

"It was a little warm when the boys started at seven a.m., but it cooled down as the day wore on. Last year, it was sunny, and the boys were down to their tee shirts because they were sweating so much," he said.

The end of the race was followed by a spaghetti dinner for students and parents in the school dining room.  
The students, up since 4:30 a.m.

to prepare for their big day, were more than ready to head home to bed when things broke up around 8:30 p.m.

For them, it was the end of one and a half months of intensive training and mental preparation. For St. John's School, it was

merely another example of what boys can do when they give it everything they've got, and then some.

Although snowshoeing may look easy, the hills are real killers, especially when they're at the end of a gruelling 27 mile race for seniors and 23 mile for juniors. Here, Kyle LeBlanc (left) and Chris Miluy, find time to look up at the camera between gasps for breath.  
—Photos, Bruce Stapley



Markham team members (right to left) Kevin Clifton, Rhys Davies, staff teacher, Glenn March, Darryl Hooper, and captain, Adam Peterson, show the skill and determination that secured them the title of champion senior team.

## Jack Harper recalls bygone hockey days

**By BRUCE STAPLEY**  
Jack Harper, netminder for some of the great Markham and Stouffville hockey teams of the 40s and 50s, recalls the days when sticks were straight, goalie didn't wear masks, ice was natural, and referees would sometimes use bells instead of whistles.

"I can actually remember when I first came to play with the Markham Aces," he recalls. "Max Reesor was the referee for one of the games and he actually had a school bell instead of a whistle."

The Scarborough resident, along with his wife of 47 years, Bertha, remembers several bizarre happenings from his hockey heyday.

"One night, we were playing a playoff game at the Old Markham Arena. The other team had come in by train. They'd brought so many supporters with them that the boards caved in with the weight of so many people crowding around to watch the game," Jack says.

Jack, a netminding phenom, started out playing Junior 'B' hockey at Northern Vocational School in Toronto, alongside future National Hockey League star Bob Goldham. In 1940 he was contacted by the Markham Aces to play Junior 'C'. He then played two years for the Markham Millionaires before going overseas with the Army in 1942.

After the war he returned to the Millionaires and enjoyed his glory year, culminating in a trip to the Intermediate Finals against Owen Sound.

Harry Lumley, (future NHL goalie) was in net for Owen Sound," he recalls. "He was only 16 years old at the time, but he stoned us."

Jack's fondest memories go back to those years with the M's, playing with George and Fred Scott, Bert Baker, Harry Milroy, Ernie and Bob Lawrie, Bob and Nick Bangay, and Charlie Percival. For two years straight the players voted him Most Valuable Player.

Jack finished his playing career in Stouffville with the Intermediate League Clippers, playing against the Markham club he once was a part of for many years.

"There was a healthy rivalry between Stouffville and Markham back then," he remembers. "Some of the Markham guys went to play for Stouffville when they were guaranteed a financial return. That made the Markham guys pretty upset."

But despite the hard feelings, Jack insists they always stuck to hockey and played a little tougher against each other.

Like so many of the old-time hockey players, Jack feels today's hockey, with its needless violence, is a lot rougher than the hockey of his day.

"There's so much more body contact now, more taking the guy out of the play. Now, each team puts a 'tree' (big forward) in front of the opposition net and the other team's players try to hack him down."

"There was always good chemistry with most of the guys on the team. It was more like recreation back then, not the win-at-all-cost stuff you see so often today," concluded the former Canada Wire and Cable worker.

And of course, in Jack's day, goalies didn't wear masks.  
"There were no slapshots or curved sticks then, so it wasn't as bad as you might think going out there without a mask," he assures.

But he suffered his share of cuts and scratches.  
"I remember a game in Collingwood. We were winning 2-1 when I got hit right between the eyes with a screen shot," Jack says. "I was bleeding pretty bad, but they patched it up and I played the final two minutes of the game. I had it stitched up afterwards."

He also remembers a February playoff game where he dropped to his knees to field a loose puck and took a stick in the face from an opponent trying to free the puck.

But despite the bumps and bruises, Jack takes pride in the fact he never missed a game due to injury. Not bad for the goalie who was considered on the small side at 5'9" and about 135 lbs.

As for personal rivalries and vendettas, Jack says there was the odd cheapshot, but the players of his day were more patient than those of today, waiting for their chance for revenge.

Unfortunately for those players, when Jack Harper retired at 33-years-old, there were plenty of frustrated snipers who realized they'd never get the chance to settle old scores for scoring opportunities lost.



JACK HARPER

**HARDBALL REGISTRATION**  
Saturday, February 27  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
CROSBY ARENA MILLIKEN ARENA  
CENTENNIAL ARENA MARKHAM ARENA  
(Highways 7 & 48)  
OR CALL  
Conley Bayley 471-4016  
Alex Roberts 471-5746  
John Kerr 471-5177  
House Leagues and Rep. Teams Available

**NO PAYMENTS NO INTEREST FOR 90 DAYS!**  
**AT UNIONVILLE PONTIAC • BUICK • GMC**

- FIREFLY FROM \$6995.00 (STK #4170) 4 IN STOCK 14 ON THE WAY!
- SUNBIRD FROM \$10,395.00 (STK #5626) 10 IN STOCK 9 ON THE WAY!
- FIERO FROM \$16,495.00 (STK #5313) 3 IN STOCK 1 ON THE WAY!
- FIREBIRD FROM \$15,995.00 (STK #40253) 9 IN STOCK 1 ON THE WAY!
- GRAND AM FROM \$12,495.00 (STK #5235) 22 IN STOCK 2 ON THE WAY!
- TEMPEST FROM \$11,995.00 (STK #5474) 12 IN STOCK 4 ON THE WAY!
- SKYHAWK FROM \$13,195.00 (STK #5376) 2 IN STOCK 1 ON THE WAY!
- SKY LARK FROM \$14,795.00 (STK #4220) 4 IN STOCK 1 ON THE WAY!
- G.M.C. FULL SIZE PICKUPS FROM \$12,995.00 (STK #5447) 9 IN STOCK 20 ON THE WAY!

**TAKE ADVANTAGE!**  
**OWN YOUR NEW CAR TODAY**

- SHOP EARLY FOR BEST SELECTION
- QUALIFIED APPRAISER ON DUTY ALL DAY SAT.
- PRICES EXCLUDE FREIGHT, TAXES & LICENSE
- SUBJECT TO APPROVED CREDIT ONLY

**UNIONVILLE PONTIAC • BUICK • GMC**  
4630 Hwy. #7 at the Kennedy bypass  
**477-1666**