

# Barb's still Guiding Stouffville girls

**By BRUCE STAPLEY**  
In this, the Year of the Guide, there's no one more worthy of recognition for involvement in the Girl Guide movement than Stouffville's Barb Hie.

Mrs. Hie, is one of a dying breed; a career mother and homemaker who enjoys taking part in youth-related endeavors for the good of the community and not just her family.

involved as a Brownie and Guide," she recalls. "I started as a leader in Stouffville 11 years ago when my daughter Tina joined. When she left, I stayed on."

Barb admits to being hooked on the program, and the positive effect she knows it has on young lives. "I like working with kids," she says. "I quit for about a month-and-a-half a few years back, but I missed it so much I came back."

Barb points out that the Girl Guide movement has survived the social changes that have seen so many age-old programs bite the dust. "The international movement is still thriving world wide, perhaps more so now than ever before."

### Surviving program

As District Commissioner, Barb is responsible for seeing that all units operate efficiently, and for recruiting leaders. "This tends to be a little difficult, (recruiting leaders), because we're not allowed to advertise. But we're always looking for people willing to help out."

Barb voices great respect for those women who give of their time to help make the local program a success. "Many of my leaders are working women. They take time out to go camping with the girls, and for the various training courses that give them a better understanding of Guiding."

### 142 participants

There are 19 leaders in the Stouffville program, with eight more serving on the Council as Secretary, Treasurer, Cookie Convenor and Testers. There are, at present, 142 girls enrolled.

Barb feels all young girls can benefit from principles contained in the Guides movement. "It definitely helps girls cope with today's world. It teaches them responsibility and provides strengthening values."

She says the Girl Guide program has become more relaxed through the years. "It's easier for the kids to handle now, although they still have to put in some of their own time."

Another significant change is in the minimum age requirement for entrance into the Brownie program. It was lowered from seven to six.



## Hie on community spirit

Barb Hie (left) stands with fellow Scout and Guide movement leaders during a recent presentation. The Stouffville woman has been involved with Girl Guides

in this area for 11 years. She's proud of the organization which has withstood the test of changing times while others have lost popularity.

This may even be lowered to five in the near future, Barb claims.

### New unit

Barb's hopeful there will be sufficient interest this fall to set up a 'Pathfinders' unit consisting of older girls, once they've advanced past Guides. "There's been a tendency for girls to drop out at this level," she claims. "When they reach a certain age, other things vie for their attention. But we're hopeful we can interest enough to stay on this fall."

The Brownies and Guides have had a temporary change of venue for their weekly meetings, as their regular home, Latcham Hall, is undergoing renovations, resulting in

the use of the Recreation Centre on an interim basis. "The facilities at Latcham Hall are great for us," says Barb. "We have our own storage area and that makes for a lot less work moving things around all the time."

### Non-denominational

The Guiding program is still, as it's always been, non-denominational in make-up, "but there's definitely a stress on duty to God, along with responsibilities to country and community."

The girls enjoy involvement in camping trips and the Santa Claus Parade. They also distribute candy to the Town's Seniors at Christmas. They attended the Olympic Flame ceremony at Vandorf last December and they still sell Girl

Guide cookies each spring.

### 'Fly-up' night

The big night of the year for Brownies and Guides takes place April 19. "That's our 'Fly Up' when Brownies advance to Guides, and Guides to Pathfinders."

Barb admits to uncertainty about what path she'll take when her term as Commissioner expires in 2½ years. "I haven't decided if I'll stay on as leader. I'll announce my decision at that time."

But one thing is certain. After 11 years as a Girl Guide Leader; a 13-year involvement with the Youth Bowling Council and an intense desire to pitch in and help other young people's programs, it's safe to say Barb Hie will be doing her part for the children.

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