

**Markham Heating**  
 & AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS  
 191 Wellington St. E. Unit 7  
 Markham  
 471-1748  
 Craftsmanship  
 A Fine Tradition

# Tribune Community FOCUS

FOR A  
 FREE  
 PROPERTY  
 EVALUATION  
 CALL VAN BATT  
 640-6563  
 RE/MAX IMPERIAL  
 REALTY LTD.

Serving Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge and area

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday July 20, 1988

## A weedless weekend for Preston Lake

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
 They came to Preston Lake on Saturday with paddle boats, canoes and motor boats. More than 150 people, mostly families, set out to "bag" their limit.

When all was said and done, they had taken more than 20 tons of weeds out of the water in the second annual Pride and Preston Lake (PAPL) weed harvest. The project is a "grass roots" response to a weed problem that threatened to turn the 60-acre Vandorf area lake into a marsh. Swimmers in the lake were also in danger of becoming tangled in the growth.

"Our approach is different from the tactics used by many ratepayers associations," says PAPL President Jim McVeigh, a resident of the lake area. "Rather than rant and rave about it, we decided to just get out there and do it ourselves."

And that's just what they did on Saturday. Twenty six boats of varying descriptions and capacities were brought to the lake, which is usually restricted to wind surfers and canoes.

Using four weed-harvesting rigs attached to motor boats, weeds were cut and brought to the surface for other boats to collect and take to shore. There, a large disposal bin was filled to capacity.

The harvesters were the handiwork of association members Johan Aaltink and Bruno Pignatelli. "We spent a few nights welding them together," said Aaltink. "They troll along until there is so much resistance we can't go any further. Then the support boat comes along and unloads them."

Association Vice President Sam Passarello, a contractor who lives on the lake's north shore, claims its a long-term project. "We decided last year something had to be done. We called the Ministry of the Environment to find out how to go about it," he said.

What followed was eight months of research involving the Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources, and the Metro and Toronto Region Conservation Authority. "They gave us information and advice, and told us where to take the weeds from, and how many to take out," said McVeigh.

But he knows the importance of leaving some weeds in the lake

intact to preserve a balance for its gilled inhabitants. "That's why we use strict controls," he says.

Association expenses have been limited to the cost of renting the dump bin, and the price of the material for the harvesting rigs. Stouffville and Aurora area businesses have contributed to make the project a success.

"The cost to have mechanical harvestors come in over three years would be around \$75-80,000," claims McVeigh.

So successful has the project been that other citizens' groups experiencing similar problems have approached PAPL for advice. "A group from Paradise Lake near Kitchener-Waterloo is starting to do the identical thing as we are," says McVeigh. "We gave them our research."

While the harvesting is serious business, the large turnout meant no one was overworked. There was a barbecue from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., and plenty of fun and entertainment for the kids.

"It's a family event," said McVeigh. "We want it to be fun as well as work."

Included among the laborers were Mayor Fran Sainsbury and Councillor Ron Robb, who headed out into the lake in a small motorboat, returning with a sizable "catch" of weeds.

"They told us this boat could hold 800 pounds," laughed Mayor Sainsbury, surveying the green cargo.

"Ron kept saying we needed to load on more weeds. I asked him if he intended to swim back to shore," she chuckled, pointing to a portly Councillor Robb.

Area MPP Bill Ballinger was also in attendance, viewing the operation from the sidelines.

McVeigh is proud of his association's organizational capacity.

"We have made good use of the talents of the people who live in the area. Its well organized and effective," he says.

The lake and surrounding area is estimated to have a value of approximately \$150 million, according to real estate sources. And the water quality is impressive — McVeigh claims some residents draw their drinking water directly from the lake.

There are about 50 houses on the north side of the lake, with another 100 or so on the south side. "And its a great place to live," concluded McVeigh, gazing out at the enthusiastic work force.



Preston Lake residents know the value of team work. Several gathered on the weekend for the second annual weed harvest of the lake, clearing away about 20 tons from the bottom. Here, Pride and Preston Lake Vice President Sam Passarello (front left), Bruno Pignatelli and Johan Aaltink continue dredging weeds while supporters Carl Myers (background, left) and Peter Hall carry it away in their boat for disposal.

natelli and Johan Aaltink continue dredging weeds while supporters Carl Myers (background, left) and Peter Hall carry it away in their boat for disposal.

— Bruce Stapley



Getting into the spirit of the clean-up event was no problem for Brenda Rea, seen here happily dumping a handful of weeds into the disposal bin. She and several other residents pitched in to clear the lake of the unwanted weeds.

— Bruce Stapley



Preston Lake children were put to work as well during the sweep, as Christine Uchida (left) and Anne Maria Korpikoski will attest. Everyone enjoyed a barbecue with games and entertainment following the day's task. Now organizers can prepare for next year's spring cleaning.

— Bruce Stapley

## Mississippi tour a cyclist's dream



Avid cyclist Carolyn Davidson logged 1,000 miles last month on a trip along the Mississippi River with six fellow cyclists. The Stouffville resident also travelled on her bike to visit a friend in Parry Sound recently, packing down 32 pounds of gear for the trip. She would one day like to tour the south of France on her bicycle.

By BRUCE STAPLEY

Carolyn Davidson took a trip up the Mississippi River last month, but it wasn't by riverboat, bus or automobile.

The 28-year-old Stouffville resident was part of a seven-person bicycle caravan that made the 1,000-mile journey from Memphis, Tennessee to just short of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Enduring temperatures that sometimes climbed above 100°F, the group followed a route set out in 1976 for the American Bicentennial, one of five such trips designed to crisscross the United States.

"It's something I had wanted to do for a long time," says the keen bicycle enthusiast. "It had the combination of travel, plus it was a challenge."

"My sister-in-law had taken part in a fundraising bike trip across the United States in 1987," Carolyn says. "That got me interested."

The group consisted of four men and three women: Carolyn was the only Canadian and her sister-in-law, Cindy, also took part.

Carolyn drove to Milwaukee, where she picked up Cindy. The two then picked up the rest of the group while enroute to Memphis, where the seven set out June 13.

"We took turns driving the van once the trip started," Carolyn says. "That way we would each get a break every seventh day."

The cyclists averaged 80 miles a day, following a route that took them into Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. They reached their destination June 25.

"It was really quite hot," Carolyn recalls. "We tried to get up every morning at around 5:30

so we could be off by 6 or 6:30."

They would usually be done for the day by mid-afternoon, at which time they would set up tents. Stopover points were planned in advance, although Carolyn claims they modified the course towards the end of the journey to save a few miles.

"We all suffered from the heat a little," she says. "But we were constantly drinking fluids. And when you are moving, there is a bit of a breeze."

None of the cyclists suffered any sort of injury, but Carolyn maintains there were a few close calls. Drivers, she reports, were usually considerate.

"They were over-courteous in the South," she says. "Further north, there was more traffic and motorists weren't always quite so accommodating."

The group spent several hours each day exploring the surroundings, and Carolyn says there was some stunning scenery. "One of the most spectacular places we saw was Pike's Peak State Park in Iowa. It was an incredible view."

She was unaware there were bluffs at the side of the Mississippi in some areas, with caves and a delightful view.

The seven stayed in Nauvoo, Illinois, where Joseph Smith started the Mormon Church. They also spent a night in St. Louis.

"We wandered the river front," Carolyn says. "It's all been restored — something like Harbourfront in Toronto."

Another night was spent in Hannibal, Missouri — Mark Twain's hometown.

"We saw the setting of Huckleberry Finn," Carolyn recalls with delight.

The group met with co-operation and friendliness everywhere they went, and people were always approachable.

"One man we talked with early in the trip drove up to visit us later on in the journey," Carolyn says.

After reaching their destination, the cyclists drove back to Milwaukee where they dispersed.

Carolyn claims her interest in cycling started when she lived in Quebec, where she would take day trips. She recently cycled to Parry Sound to stay at a friend's cottage.

"I was self-contained on that trip," she says. "I had 32 pounds of stuff, including a tent and a sleeping bag."

She hopes to someday take a longer trip than the one she did in the U.S. this summer.

"I'd like to do one with no vehicle and a small group of two or three people, where we were self-contained," she said.

### Elizabeth earns bronze

Thirteen-year-old Elizabeth Davia, Deborah Place, Stouffville, continues to impress judges at figure skating competitions.

Recently, in Lake Placid, New York, Elizabeth won a bronze medal in Ladies' Juvenile Compulsories. She placed eighth in Juvenile Free-Style.

Entries came from all across Canada and the United States.

The Stouffville Figure Skating Club is proud of Elizabeth's outstanding performance. Her coach is Julia Wilson of Stouffville.

Carolyn was employed in the language lab at the University of Guelph, but left that job in the spring. She hopes to enrol at teacher's college at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C.

Carolyn believes a career as a teacher would ideally suit her. One benefit would be that it allows for summer bicycle trips.

And as far as she's concerned, the sky's the limit in terms of where she would like to ride.

"I've been told that the south of France is the best place in the world for cycling. I hope I'll get to find out someday."

**INSIDE**

Walleye population encouraged by man-made techniques. See Art Briggs' Jude's column/C-1

Fourth line news/C-5

Students learn their lessons at summer school/C-5

The Business Improvement Association makes plans for Stouffville Main Street/C-9