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A big adventure

Stouffville family moving to England

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The Bardell family of Stouffville is starting out on what Beth Bardell calls "a big adventure" when they pull up stakes and move to England this summer. Living in another country was something Beth had often dreamed of, but the opportunity to turn her dream into reality took them all by surprise.

It came about through her husband John, a systems manager who had been working for the Workmen's Compensation Board in Toronto. "My husband is English," she explains. "He was working on a contract which was almost up. A

they moved to a new home on the Tenth Line. Trevor, 13, Nicole, 11 and Ashlee, 5 have mixed feelings about leaving, she admits. "Trevor's looking forward to it, there'll be a lot there for him," notes his mother. "He was concerned about missing out on hockey, but it turns out there's a team in Peterborough, the nearest town to where we'll be living. There's even a girls' hockey team for Nicole."

"A fellow he used to work for here, who has since gone back to England himself, called him out of the blue and offered him a job."

The family will be living in a rented house in a small village, and the village has a stream running through it, which will give Trevor, an avid fisherman, a chance to hone his skills.

Ashlee surprised her by bursting into tears when she heard they were leaving.

That was early in January, by the end of the month the decision to move was made. Beth herself was born and raised in Stouffville, but lived in Toronto for about 10 years, and it was there she met John, who came to Canada in the early '70s. "We got married in 1974, and we stayed in the city for a year, and then came here," she said. "I came back because of the kids; it's a good place for them to grow up. John was happy, once he got used to it," smiles Beth. They moved to a house on Main Street to start with, but as the family grew, space became tight and

Nicole is finding it harder to accept, "she'll be leaving some very close friends, it's going to be quite an adjustment for her." Ashlee surprised her by bursting into tears when she heard they were leaving. "I wasn't really thinking about her so much, I was talking to the older two, because I didn't think it would worry her, but she said she didn't want to leave the house. She's much happier now." Beth's concerns about her family's adjustment have been soothed by the man who offered John his job. "His kids were roughly the same age when he went back, and he says they adapted really quickly." Although the Bardells are looking on the move as permanent, it's possible they might come

back at some stage. "John's been hired in a full time job with Thomas Cook, which has made a deal with Eaton's Travel, so the option would be there to return if necessary." She notes that, from the children's point of view, this summer is probably the ideal time to start their new life. "Trevor would be going into high school anyway and Nicole will also be eligible for her first year at high school in England, because they change at 11 over there." As Beth points out everyone, not just Nicole, will be new to the school, which will make it easier for her to settle in and make friends. "I really want them to get to know their grandparents," she stresses, adding that her own family is finding it hard to say goodbye. "There are seven kids in my family, and my mom and dad live in town," she said. "Obviously we'll all miss each other." She hopes to persuade them to come and spend some time with her in England. "She's determined to take advantage of living close to Europe. 'When we get our holidays, I want to use them to see England and Europe and Scotland, but if we decide to stay, we would certainly come back here for visits.' As for the notorious weather, "it doesn't bother me. It doesn't seem to stop the English from doing anything."



Photo: KATE GILDERDALE

Beth Bardell and daughter Ashlee are preparing with the rest of the Stouffville family, for a move to England. Beth's husband John is originally from England. A job opportunity was offered to John out of the blue, but after some discussion, he decided to accept it.

Last Friday, Beth left her job as clerk cashier in the treasurer's department at the town offices, a job she had thoroughly enjoyed. "I'm not going to look for a job there, I need to be there for the kids and concentrate on what they're going through," she said. By the time John comes back on June 23 to finalize things at home, he will have spent nearly three months alone in England. "He's only been back (to Canada) once since February," she said. "He was supposed to be

back in May and it's been difficult for him not seeing the kids for all that time." John, Beth and Ashlee leave on July 10. Trevor is going on a fishing trip at the end of July and he and Nicole will fly over in August. "He's staying with the friends he's going fishing with and Nicole is staying with my sister, so she can get in as much baseball as possible. It's made it a little easier for them to accept the move." Other friends gave her a good

piece of advice. "they said as soon as you get the kids there, take them to the mall in Peterborough. It's very much like our malls and it's got a McDonald's in it." That way, laughs Beth, they'll know they haven't left civilization behind. Although Beth admits to being a bit nervous herself, she's very excited. "I've always had a tug towards England, even as a child. There's so much history there. I look at it as an adventure and I want to get the most out of it," she concludes.

Uxceptional Uxposition

(Left) Uxbridge Uxposition first vice-president Bruce Beveridge and treasurer Marlene Pollard get ready for the 125th Uxbridge Fair held at Uxbridge arena last weekend. Vera Dowdall (right), a home economist with the Pork Producers of Ontario, makes the final preparation on a dish. Enjoying the water of a Jacuzzi (below) are Valerie, Shane and Kyle Hall and four-year-old Stephanie Clodd of Uxbridge (centre). About 3,000 people attended the popular three-day event.

