

Siblings are all wet

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Correspondent

For many children and their parents, the Stouffville Pool is a place to keep cool and have fun as well as to learn and improve swimming skills.

Among the staff working there this summer are local brother and sister Steven and Stephanie Barclay, both of whom have become regular fixtures at the facility over the past few years.

Steven, 21, has returned for his sixth season and is the manager this year.

"I started in the medium pool and wading pool," he says. "I've been interested in swimming from the beginning and used to swim here myself. I just kept going through the different levels and found I really enjoyed it."

His duties include teaching and working as a lifeguard.

"We have lessons every week-day from 9 to 2, and later in the afternoon from 4:30 to 6. There are four sessions in the summer as well as a pre-season one in June," he says.

With each session full and people being turned away, they'd like to offer more lessons, "but then we'd get complaints that there wasn't enough public swimming time," he notes.

He enjoys all aspects of his job, but especially the teaching.

"I do all levels, from parents and tots to the bronze course," he says. When he's not busy at the town pool, he's swimming in his own backyard pool or visiting the family cottage on Lake Simcoe. "I love water skiing and downhill skiing, and we do a lot of water skiing at the cottage. We both love it."

Steven and Stephanie get alternate weekends off, most of which are spent at the cottage. Stephanie, 19, says she decided to join the staff at Stouffville Pool "mostly because Steve was there, and he told me what fun it was. They're always looking for lifeguards, and if you're qualified and have a reasonable personality, they want you."

It's her fourth year at the pool and she's particularly enthusiastic about the new synco swim program which she's running. It was suggested by Recreation Programmer Peter Arnott. She says,

"He phoned and asked me if I'd like to take a course so that I could teach it," she says. "There were five people in the first session and it was a really good class. We had a two-week session and they all passed. I was very excited because it was the first



Stephanie Barclay, shown here taking a break from her job as instructor at the Stouffville Pool, and her brother Steven have spent all their lives in Stouffville

time I'd taught it."

She was particularly pleased, she says, because the assessment of each swimmer was made by an outside examiner.

Although there were no registrations for the second session, "a lot are coming back for the third one. I want to continue with the same group so we can go on to the next level all together. They start at Star One and go to Star Five. Then it gets into the really competitive stuff."

Both Steven and Stephanie are pleasantly surprised that they've never had to deal with a major crisis at the pool.

"That's amazing for a place of this size," observes Stephanie. "We're at maximum capacity a lot of the time, which is about 200 swimmers. After that, we have to start turning people away."

Some problems with discipline are inevitable, she acknowledges.

"Nights are the worst when the older kids come down. Some of them just don't listen to us because they don't care, but it's never really got nasty. They usually just leave if we talk to them. If things started to get out of hand, we'd call the police."

The biggest problem, they both agree, is that some parents treat the pool as a babysitting service.

"Sometimes kids of five or six are here on their own and the parents get upset with us if we don't make sure their kid doesn't go into the 'big' pool," says Stephanie. "If their children are too young, they should be here supervising them."

If the pool has to close early for any reason, she adds, the

children often have nowhere to go.

"We tell them they can call home, but they say their parents aren't there anyway."

Most of the children behave well and while there are a few troublemakers, "considering the amount of time they spend here and how busy it is, we really don't have any problems," stresses Steven.

At the end of the summer, he'll be returning to the University of Guelph for his third year, where he is studying politics and consumer studies.

He hopes to be back at the pool for a final summer next year. Stephanie will be entering the University of Waterloo for her

first year, taking an applied studies co-op course.

The brother-sister duo have lived in Stouffville all their lives and are quite family-oriented. "Our family's very much into sports; we do a lot of downhill skiing together. Steve and I really get on well together," smiles Stephanie, who is also an accomplished figure skater.

For those interested in a summer job at the pool, qualifications are important, they both agree. "There are a lot of courses and stuff," admits Steve. "It's hard work. You can't just walk into it.

For them, it's been very much worth the effort.

"We both enjoy it; I can't imagine doing anything else now," he concludes.

Calendar Events

Organizations and/or individuals are asked to call in their events calendar listings by the Friday preceding publication. The telephone numbers are 640-2100 or 649-2297.

*There's no charge for this service.

Thu. Aug. 3
The Durham West 4-H "Go for the Gold" competition will be held at the Latcham Centre in Port Perry at 8 p.m.

The Goodwood Christian Women's Club holds its regular meeting with prayer and coffee at 9:30 a.m., swimming and pot luck luncheon at 11:30 a.m. For further information, call Sandra Will at 852-7750.

Sat. Aug. 5
The family of Marjorie and Murray Stewart invite their friends and relatives to an Open House in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary from 2 to 4 p.m. at their residence - Crawford Beach on Canal Lake near Bolsover. Best wishes only.

The Saddlebred Association Show is being held at the Markham Fairgrounds.

Mon. Aug. 7
Please note that the Video Luncheon at the Silver Jubilee Club is cancelled for the Civic Holiday. Come and join the group next week (Monday, Aug. 14 at 12:30 p.m.). Bring a sandwich and come along to see Twins Home Support Services will supply tea and squares. For more information, call 640-6554.

The Stars and Stripes quarter horse extravaganza opens at the Markham Fairgrounds, continuing to Aug. 12.

Tue. Aug. 8
The regular foot clinic is open at the Silver Jubilee Club. Sore, tired feet? Thick nails? Callus? Corns? Call Hilda Wright at 640-1966 for an appointment. Seniors rates.

And don't forget the Goodwood Christian Women's Club's summer luncheon at the Goodwood Community Centre on Thursday, Aug. 10. Luncheon tickets by advance sale only are \$7 and may be obtained from Emily Helliwell at 642-1430 or Yvonne Yeates at 640-5761. The subject is Dog Daze of Summer, with advice, a singer and a speaker.

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