

Markham Heating
 & AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS
 172 Bullock Drive Unit 27, Markham
 471-1748

Tribune Focus

Community Sports Leisure Entertainment

220 Success Square 640-7211
Greens
 of Stouffville
 Your Neighbourhood Meeting Place

Serving Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge & Area

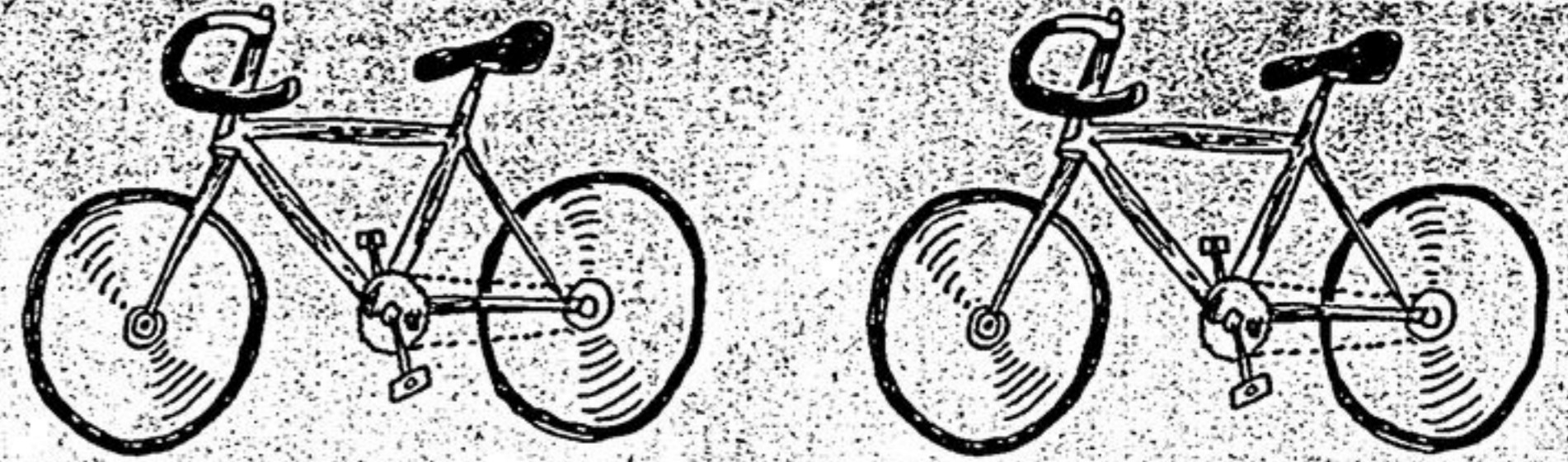
A Metroland Community Newspaper

Third Section

Wednesday, August 9, 1989



It took four days for Jeremy Van Barneveld and his partner to ride their bikes to Montreal last month. The Uxbridge teen so enjoyed the experience that he plans to cycle through Europe next summer with his father.



Bike trip to Montreal eye-opener for teen

BRUCE STAPLEY
 Correspondent

For 15-year-old Jeremy Van Barneveld of Uxbridge, the words "let's go for a ride on our bikes" will never have the same meaning again.

Jeremy, who moved with his family to their new Ewen St. home in May after a short stay at the Maples Lodge in Ballantrae, felt it would be a good idea to have one last adventure before settling down to his summer job at the local IGA.

So the former Brantford, Ont., resident hooked up with a friend from his hometown and headed off to Montreal by bicycle — a 650-kilometre proposition.

The pair strapped sleeping bags, a tent and some spare clothes on their backs and hit the road July 15.

And when they finally rode into the bilingual city four days later, they had a new respect for both the road and their fortitude.

"Some cars honk their horns at you and tell you to get off the road," Jeremy said of the long trek along Hwy. 2. "And the big rigs would cause a wind rush when they drove by and it was hard to hold on to the bike."

During the adventure, Jeremy

says he had one harrowing experience. "I was driving behind Raymond (his partner) when this guy came straight at us in the oncoming lane. Raymond stopped and I ran into him and ended up in the centre of the lane the guy was coming from. The guy's truck just missed me."

The boys had a total of four flat tires along the way and discovered early in the pilgrimage that their original plan to sleep in their tent wasn't going to work out.

"We stopped at Presqu'île Provincial Park our first night, and slept in our sleeping bags in the tent," he said. "But it was uncomfortable and we didn't get a good night's sleep, so we decided to stay in motels after that."

They rode four or five hours a day, stopping at fruit markets and variety stores for snacks to help keep them going. They would usually quit for the day around 4 p.m.

The weather was co-operative and they only encountered rain for a brief spell on their third day of travel.

While getting to Montreal went smoothly from a navigational point of view, the youths became a little confused once they arrived in the city.

"When we got there, we couldn't find Raymond's aunt and uncle's apartment where we were to stay. We finally found it around 10 p.m.," says Jeremy.

After a few days exploring Montreal on their bicycles, they headed home by train.

And already, the wheels are starting to turn in Jeremy's mind with regard to his next biking adventure — he wants to conquer Europe.

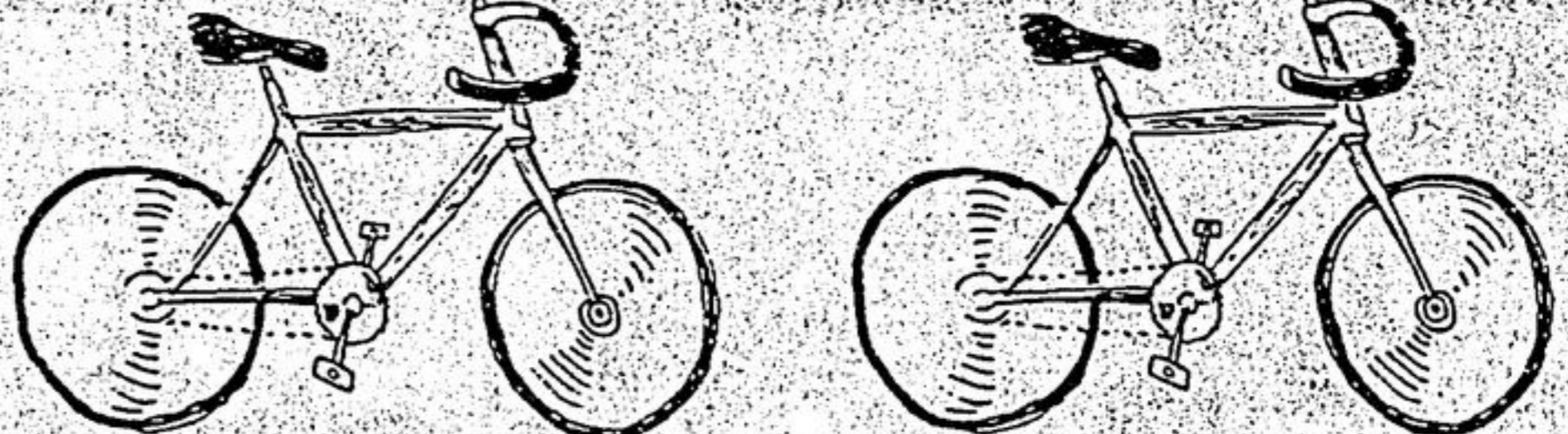
"I decided I wanted to go. Raymond won't be able to go, so when I got home, I asked my dad if he would like to go with me. It looks like we're going to do that for two weeks next summer."

The father and son team will fly to The Netherlands, where his father, Jan, was born, and set out by bike from there.

Jeremy, a self-confessed sports enthusiast with a strong interest in hockey and soccer, says he is hooked on cycling.

"It's a great activity and it's good exercise," he says. "It's a good way to travel and it's a lot of fun."

And as Jeremy heads into Grade 11 at Uxbridge Secondary School this September, it will be with the knowledge that his next big bicycling challenge lies at the end of the school year.



Uxbridge woman sets up theatre for kids

KATE GILDERDALE
 Correspondent

As part of Uxbridge's Celebration of the Arts festival this September, a group called Storybook Theatre will be presenting three children's plays at the Music Hall on September 21 at 1 p.m.

The driving force behind the group is local resident Dorothy Splonick, who was president of the Uxbridge Players last year. "I was on the executive, and the Celebration of the Arts executive approached us and asked us to do live performances for the event," she explains.

"One difficulty was that the plays we'd been doing were adult plays with set stages, which require a lot of work and rehearsals. As this would be for just one afternoon and it was supposed to appeal to young children, we felt it should be something simple. After some discussion among the executive, they agreed to see what they could come up with."

"I came home and pulled out a couple of my son's fairy tale books. I thought some of them could make interesting theatre," notes Dorothy.

Her suggestions appealed to the other members of the executive and she found herself in charge of an exciting new venture, whose official title is "three of a kind."

"As it was my idea, I got to direct, and that's something I haven't done before, so it was a really good opportunity for me."

Dorothy Splonick of the Uxbridge Players steps behind the curtain as local children take the stage in a production of three fairy tale stories acted out by kids.

She describes the presentations as "loosely based stories. It's story telling as much as acting, which will give the actors a lot of leeway rather than being tied to a script."

She's adapted each story to appeal to the three to seven year age group, "but we encourage all age groups to attend. The first one is called 'The Precious Gift' and it's about a king who has three princesses, who are all pretty and very smart. He has to decide which one will be queen, so he tells them he'll choose the one who brings him the most precious gift."

Things start to go awry after that, she says, "but I'm not giving any more away. To find out what happens, you'll have to come and see for yourself." She's also doing a play called "The Greedy King" in which the audience is asked to decide whether the main character should be given a second chance.

"If they say no, we'll throw him off stage," jokes Dorothy. "If they say yes, we'll continue the

story." The third presentation is called "The Three Spinners," and offers all the delights of a traditional fairy tale with some adaptations Dorothy feels will make it more relevant to today's audience. "The characters have their own lines, but they also tell the story as they go along," she states.

Auditions for the three plays are being held at the Music Hall on Aug. 15 at 7:30 p.m. "We hope to get members of the Uxbridge Players as well as people from the community at large to come out. We welcome people of all ages, including children." For those uncomfortable with speaking parts, "we have a banquet scene and we just need people to sit at the table and be part of that."

As well, helpers will be needed for various other tasks connected with the event. "Anyone who wants to help paint scenery or dig up costumes will be welcome." There are seventeen main characters, as well as numerous other roles to fill, and she hopes it

will turn out to be a true community effort.

Dorothy's love of theatre goes back to her childhood. "I belonged to a group when I was a kid for several years, and as an adult I became a member of the Leaside Players, doing a little bit of everything there." The Uxbridge Players provided a big incentive to move into town from the city five years ago.

"When we decided we'd come and live up here, I found out about them, and then I agreed to move." Since being involved with the Players, Dorothy's done everything from stage management to dinner theatre.

"I've been with them about three or four years now. I've done acting roles including two leads with the group," she notes. "We've done comedy and drama here and I've been on the executive for the past couple of years." She's very keen to increase attendance to enable their plays to enjoy longer runs.

"We'd like to do more performances of each play, but there aren't enough people out there. At Leaside they did nine performances because so many people came to see them." The Leaside group was "large and competitive; when you went to audition you didn't just walk away with a part."

If you're interested in taking part in "three of a kind," or would like more information about the Uxbridge Players, call Dorothy Splonick at 852-3235.



Dorothy Splonick of Uxbridge is seeking new talent for a fall program put on by the Uxbridge Players. It involves a series of plays performed by children for children, based loosely on fairy tales. There will be speaking as well as non-speaking roles so that outgoing and shy children alike can become involved. The plays will be performed Sept. 21.



Keith Philly greets newcomers to Stouffville

New improved Tribune coming

The Tribune will take on a new format beginning next week. The paper will be published separately in Stouffville and in Uxbridge with more extensive coverage of both areas. This week marks the last printing of the Focus section of the newspaper. Watch for the new Tribune arriving on doorsteps next Wednesday.



Ken Stellan is an inmate with a piano