

Safety is a priority when boating



Outdoors

Mike Hayakawa

Based on the weather we've been blessed with this past week, it appears summer has finally arrived.

Thoughts of hot, sunny days are usually associated with chilling out on a body of water in some form of powered vessel.

Boating is a great way to beat the heat. With it, though, comes the necessity to take extra precautionary measures.

Each year it's not unusual to hear about lives being lost through boating mishaps.

The chances of becoming a statistic can be greatly reduced if your vessel is properly equipped for safe boating.

By law, vessels of any size must possess specific safety devices.

The failure to do so can result in a fine being imposed if a police patrol vessel stops you for a safety inspection. Const. John Bacon of the York Regional Police Marine Patrol Unit in Keswick reveals fines can range anywhere from \$105 to \$245. The latter figure, he said, can be levied for failure to have a CSA approved life jacket for each person on board a vessel.

"We're strict in this area," conceded Bacon in the need for vessels to have proper lifesaving jackets. "There's no excuse. It's amazing how many peo-

ple go out on a boat and don't have the proper number of life jackets or people having outdated personal floatation devices. It won't do," he said.

Bacon said people are becoming increasingly aware of the safety factors involved in boating. But there's still a good number of individuals who tend to take this recreational activity for granted, he warned.

"A lot of people are getting better as far as having the proper equipment on board. But there's still a lot of people who just jump into their boat on the first nice day and they don't know what they're doing. They don't check their boat over properly before going out."

While carrying the mandatory safety equipment is a prerequisite in safe boating, consuming alcoholic drinks when a boat is under power also contributes to accidents.

Unless a vessel has permanent cooking facilities, a washroom and sleeping facilities and is docked or anchored, the

consumption of alcohol on board is forbidden. Marine patrol units can levy a \$210 fine if boaters do not comply with this rule.

Boaters can learn more about what safety devices they must have in addition to the rules of safe boating by obtaining the Canadian Coast Guard's Safe Boating Guide.

This booklet can be obtained at no cost by calling 1-800-267-6687.

Fish bites: The fruit's of this past spring's hard labor in collecting rainbow trout eggs from the Rouge River will be born later this

month, when the Ministry of Natural Resources announces some 20,000 to 30,000 fry will be stocked in the Rouge River.

In addition, close to 10,000 will be planted in the east branch of the Don River and another 10,000 into the east branch of the Humber River.

This marks the first time that rainbow trout will be seeded into the Don River, noted ministry spokesman Mark Heaton.

The fry were reared in upwelling boxes at the Parkview Golf Course in Markham.

DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



JENNIE BUCKLEY

Jennie Buckley of Unionville has been selected as a member of the 1997-1998 Ontario Alpine Ski Team. She started her downhill racing career in the Nancy Greene and Mackenzie League programs at the Alpine Ski Club in Collingwood. Jennie then spent one year on the Southern Ontario Division (S.O.D.) Juvenile Team, followed by three years as a member of the S.O.D. Team. She finished the 1996-1997 season as the top ranked 17-year-old female Giant Slalom racer in the Province. This year at the S.O.D. banquet Jennie received one of the Wendy Buda Outstanding Performance Awards and also the Jozo Weider Bursary awarded annually to the S.O.D. Team member judged to have made the most improvement during the past competitive season. Jennie was also honoured with the Billy Bennett Memorial Trophy awarded annually to the skier judged by his/her peers and coaches, to have demonstrated achievement, the potential for progression, the quality of dedication and an attitude of self discipline within the sport.

Jennie is currently completing her O.A.C. year at Holy Trinity School in Richmond Hill.

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