

# Time to get hooked on annual Urban Fishing Day



## Outdoors

Mike Hayakawa

There will be a slight catch when the town of Markham hosts its annual Urban Fishing Day on July 6.

Unlike the last five years when the town staged this angling extravaganza at Milne Park Conservation Area, this year's event will take place on a different body of water.

Toogood Pond will be the site where young and old alike can wet a line and enjoy the day's festivities, which will run from noon to 4 p.m.

Karen Boniface, Town of Markham

spokesman, said the reason for the change in venue is to raise the awareness of Toogood Pond, which is expected to undergo some dramatic changes down the road.

The plans, which have been in the works for almost two years now, are expected to improve habitat for fish and terrestrial wildlife down the road as well as angling opportunities.

"We're designing the pond to remove sediments north of the pavilion and to build a fishway at one end of the pond—a plunge pond effect," explained Boniface of the plans.

She added that 16 different types of shoreline treatment, including the insertion of embedded logs, the creation of coves into the water, granite slab overhangs and the planting of

native aquatic vegetation, are called for in an effort to enhance fish habitat. To enhance angling, the creation of wooden fishing platforms would be strategically located around the pond for anglers to utilize.

Boniface said a steering committee comprised of local residents, councillors, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Environment and Rouge Park Alliance, have been working closely together on this project.

However, the main stumbling block in seeing improvements to Toogood

Pond lies in limited financial funding, said Boniface, who is hoping actual work on the project could commence by this fall with the removal of sediment and creation of some shoreline habitat.

"There's plenty of work to be done on the pond," she concedes. "But I'm excited about this project. It's a win-win situation for everybody."

Those attending this year's

Urban Fishing Festival, which will be headquartered at the Toogood Pond Pavilion area (Carlton Rd., west of Main St., Unionville), have the opportunity of winning numerous prizes as well as picking up some valuable fishing tips from members of the Metro East Steelheaders, who are expected to be in attendance.

There's no admission charge.

## Polo for Heart event to take place at Gormley Polo Centre

MARISSA STAPLEY  
Correspondent

This weekend, Polo clubs from all over Canada and the United States will saddle up for the annual Polo for Heart event.

A benefit for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Polo for Heart will take place at the Gormley Polo Centre.

Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the gate. Children 12 and under will be admitted free.

The games, which got under way Friday and run through this weekend and next, will commence at 1 p.m. each day.

The Game Schedule is as follows:

**Saturday:** Game One: Toronto Polo Club/Globe and Mail Polo Club. Game Two: Toronto Polo Club/Montreal Polo Club.

**Sunday:** Game One: Toronto Polo Club/Grand Rapids Polo Club. Game Two: Toronto Polo Club/Chicago Polo Club.

**June 28:** Game One: Toronto Polo Club/Mexico Polo Club. Game Two: Toronto Polo Club/Argentina Polo Club.

**June 29:** Game One: Toronto Polo Club/Argentina Polo Club. Game Two: Toronto Polo Club/Mexico Polo Club.

The event promises to be entertaining, with prizes awarded to the winning team of each game and proceeds going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

For more information call (416) 489-7100.

### DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



#### KEVIN HILL

Kevin Hill made his presence felt at the recent Markham Invitational Track Meet in Stouffville by winning one race and finishing second in another. A member of the Markham Track Club, Hill was first to cross the finish line in the atom boys' 400-metre race. Also running in the 800m, Hill settled for a second-place finish.

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