

# SPORTS

**SPORTS MEDICINE:** Spirit of Stouffville athletic therapist will lend a helping hand at Pan-American Games

## Laskoski comes to the rescue

BY JEFF MACKIE  
Correspondent

Does the idea of someone wanting to spend their summer vacation in Winnipeg, working long hours in the hot sun for free, sound bizarre to you?

If it does, you're probably not alone.

But Drew Laskoski, the athletic therapist for the Spirit of Stouffville junior A hockey team will be doing just that - and he can't wait.

Laskoski will be travelling to the Manitoba capital on July 24 to participate in the Pan-American Games.

He won't be competing, but instead he will be putting his skills as an athletic therapist to work.

Specifically, Laskoski will be part of the water-rescue team stationed along the shore during the wind-surfing and sailing events.

If an athlete is injured, Laskoski will assess the severity of the injury and, if necessary, administer first-aid treatment.

Laskoski, a Newmarket resident, applied for the position through Athletics Canada several months ago.



**DREW LASKOSKI**  
Will volunteer at Pan-American Games

For the application procedure, he had to outline his educational background and work experience. He's a graduate from Sheridan College's Sports Injuries Management course and has subsequently taken several additional courses to upgrade his skills.

For the past nine years, Laskoski has operated his own practice, Upper Canada Sports Medicine, in Newmarket.

He wasn't notified he'd be going to Winnipeg until late June.

"(The Pan-Am Games) is a great way to gain experience," said Laskoski. "I have an interest in international sports and my goal is to go to the Olympics. In order to get there you have to work the smaller competitions first."

The games commence July 23 and run until Aug. 8; however, Laskoski will only be in Winnipeg for 10 days.

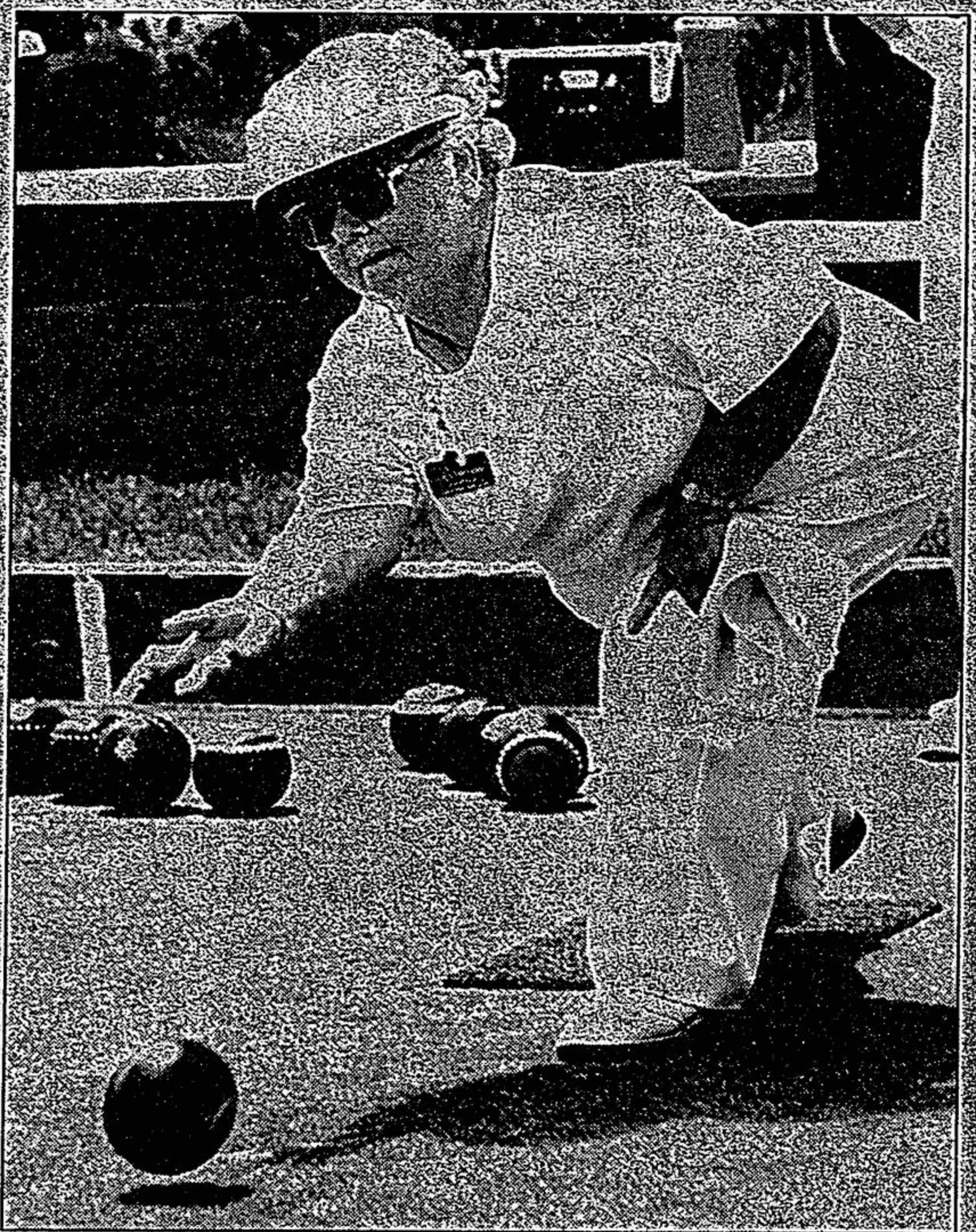
"I wish I could take the full three weeks off, but I can't afford to. I have clients who need treatment and it would be unfair to tell them they can't get treatment for three weeks."

The position is strictly a volunteer one.

In fact, Laskoski has to pay for his accommodation out of his own pocket.

Athletics Canada will pay half the cost of his flight and provide him with a modest meal allowance, but that's it.

"I guess you could say I'm doing it as a service to my country," he said with a laugh.



PHOTO/CHERYL JOHNSON

### SPECIAL DELIVERY

Doris Farthing of the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club shows good form as she delivers the ball towards the jack in last week's 35th annual Fred Crossen Lawn Bowling Tournament.

## The Pro's Tour

An inside look at York Region golf courses

### PHEASANT RUN GOLF CLUB

MANAGER: David Evans

**SIGNATURE HOLE:** First-timers at Pheasant Run might be taken aback upon arriving at Midlands No. 9, only to stumble upon golfers kneeling and praising the heavens.

For the former par-5 brute of this gorgeous 27-hole layout has been slightly handicapped since losing its one-two pond punch, a bane to many a golfer with its tiny landing strip between the Pond Twins.

Visitors now at least have a fighting chance for par at the 503-yard hole. It's still no gimme, but the landing area for second shots is a more negotiable proposition.

"It's still a frustrating hole, but not like it was," offers David Evans, manager of the 27-hole layout, now in its 19th season.



"You can still easily come away with an 8."

**TROUBLE-AWAITS:** The first hole on each of the three nines - Southern Uplands, Midlands and Highlands.

Notably, No. 1 on the Southern Uplands, a 370-yard, par-4 test, plays into a sloping fairway which plays into a postage stamp green. Although still heavily treed, removing a couple of expansive trees last fall provides golfers with a comfort zone.

**CURSE OF THE COURSE:** Midlands No. 6. Expanding the green by 30 per cent last season may be a subtle reminder to be able to make the putting surface with as little fanfare as possible. Fronted by a deep valley and backed by a steep drop into long grass, it can be a nightmare for the golfer intent on getting too cute. The par-5, 498-yard dogleg left plays through a chute of trees from an elevated tee to a blind second shot.

**GIMME A LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** Removing 80 feet of bush may have opened up Highlands No. 4, but did little to detract from this scenic hole which offers a view for miles to the east from the elevated tee.

The absence of the aforementioned bush from the 351-yard, par-4 enables the righthander to strike the ball to the left and allow it to work itself back into the fairway.

A ball-guzzling pond is situated to the right of the fairway and a bunker protects the front end of the green.

**CLUB-TOSSING TIME:** Midlands No. 6 inherits the honour from Midlands No. 9 for driving golfers around the bend!

**THE PRO'S VIEW:** "The first four or five holes are real pretty since they're cut through the trees," says Evans, citing the Highlands as his favourite nine holes of the layout. "You can feel like you're a million miles away. The first four holes are definitely a 'Wow!'"

**GENERAL INFO:** Greens fees: Mon. to Fri. - \$55; Weekends & holidays - \$65. OGA rating: Southern Uplands: 34.2; Midlands: 36.1; Highlands: 36.8. Memberships available. Teaching programs. Clergy golfs free on Mondays. Driving range and practice facilities.

**LOCATION:** Warden Avenue, 1 1/2 kilometre north of Davis Drive. Telephone: (905) 898-3917; Tor. (905) 773-8475.

The Pro's Tour is a regular feature focusing on public and semi-private golf courses available to York Region golfers viewed through the eyes of the course pro.

**DEADLINE** Monday prior to publication

**DATES** July 22

**FEATURES** Wheels is an informative section featuring the latest in the automotive industry including ROAD TESTS, FEATURE ARTICLES, DEALER PROFILES, MAINTENANCE, AFTER-MARKET PRODUCTS, USED AND NEW CARS & TRUCKS.

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