

**OUTDOORS**

# Angling club lends fish a helping hand

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

The way Dave Billinger sees it, the success in keeping the Pefferlaw Anglers Club alive and well is the club's ability to remain involved in various activities.

The club vice-president feels if there are no ongoing projects, interest among the approximate 45-member contingent will wane.

To date, there appears to be no signs of the club slowing down based on how many activities are on the go.

Two weeks ago, the club began its annual fish transfer program on the Pefferlaw River.

Beginning in 1984, the transfer involves the use of a crane which in turn, picks up a spiral ladder strategically positioned it to allow the fish to bypass a dam and continue their upstream spawning route.

Based on past transfers, a variety of fish make use of the ladder.

"Each year we get around six to eight rainbow trout that come in. And we've had a few pike and even a lake trout once," Billinger said. "But the most common fish that we get are bass. Mostly smallmouth but a few largemouth as well."

Anywhere from 250 to 350 bass go over the dam in Pefferlaw, Billinger said. Some fish are of the trophy calibre, tipping the scales at five pounds.

The ladder, installed each spring depending on water levels and the stability of the ground, will remain in place until the fall.

In addition to the annual fish transfer, the club is in the midst of rearing some 300,000 walleye eggs they received from the Ministry of Natural Resources in the recent Talbot River transfer.

This project has been on-going since 1986 and each year the club is forced to find different sites to raise the fish because there is no permanent hatchery.

Depending on the weather, it takes anywhere from 19 to 25 days for the eggs to hatch.

From there, the club transfers the fish to ponds near the river until they are about two inches long. The fish are then corralled and released in to the river.

"You have to have projects on the go to keep people interested," Billinger said.

With the various projects the club is immersed in, Billinger said some of the activities could become a thing of the past unless additional financial support can be found.

With extra resources, Billinger said the club could proceed with other projects.

# Waxers lose two minority owners, players move on to next level

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA  
Staff Writer

When the Markham Waxers take to the ice this fall they'll be missing a couple of familiar faces.

The Waxers recently announced minority owners Al Ringler and George Duguay have left the Provincial Junior A hockey club.

Ringler and Duguay owned 20 per cent of the Waxers after coming to the club after they sold the Thornhill Rattlers two seasons ago.

"We'll miss them," conceded Waxers' majority owner Don Bremner. "They're both great guys and they've done a lot for minor hockey in Thornhill and Markham. The door is always open for them to return."

Bremner revealed the pair, who originally purchased the old Weston Dukes and brought them to Thornhill where they were named the Islanders before being renamed the Rattlers, elected to leave the club due to business and personal commitments.

With Ringler and Duguay gone, the Waxers now have Bremner, Brian Ball and John Harding as their remaining owners.

Bremner, however, hinted the club is seeking additional partners to join

the team.

"We're looking for more corporate sponsorships and partners in the ownership group," he said.

On a separate note, several members of the past season's Waxers team are expected to be moving up the hockey ranks.

Defenceman Lawne Snyder is expected to be accepting an offer to attend Elmira College in Elmira, New

York in the fall. Forward Tom Kotsopoulos is weighing two U.S. collegiate offers to Rochester Institute of Technology or Marian College of Fond Du Lac. Defenceman Jimmy Ball has been offered a scholarship to attend St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York in September, 2001. Goalie Chris Delarasario, Albert Ferrante and Paul Robinson are all eligible to be taken in this year's OHL draft.

# Meteors basketball team soars at Blue Devils tournament

The Markham Meteors midget girls' basketball team captured the recent fourth annual London Blue Devils Invitational tournament with a 50-48 win over the Ingersoll Bombers in the title game.

Sherise Innis-Hall led the way for the Meteors with 14 points while Alexandra Scavo added 11.

After losing its first game to the Burlington Panthers, the Meteors rebounded to down the Guelph Rebels

51-32. Audreen Simpson scored nine points and Innis-Hall added eight.

Facing the St. Catharines Rebels in its semi-final game, the Meteors prevailed 47-45.

Innis-Hall scored 16 points and Jackie Strecker added nine.

Other team members that contributed to the club's success were Allison King, Audreen Simpson, Jessica Van Zetten, Kaitlyn Buck, Katie Crockett

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