

## GATEWAY COUNTRY OPENS NEW STORE IN MARKHAM



Store Manager Chris Woodruff and staff cut the ribbon during the new store opening at 3150 Hwy. #7 E.

The Gateway Country stores will open in Canada this year, starting with locations in the Toronto and Vancouver areas this month.

The company currently operates more than 270 Gateway Country stores in the U.S., plus locations in Europe and Asia.

Introduced in 1996, Gateway Country is a unique blend of product showroom, personalized service centre and learning facility. The stores carry no inventory - all computing solutions are personalized and all PCs are built to order for factory-direct shipment to the buyer.

Gateway Country stores will serve consumers as well as small - to medium-sized businesses. Buyers can "test drive" the latest award-winning Gateway™ desktop computers, servers and Solo® portable computers, all connected to the internet with broadband access.

All Gateway Country stores in Canada will include on-site training facilities where consumers and business clients can learn how to do more with technology.



Chris Woodruff presents a new computer to Roger LeDrew accepting for the Toronto Ronald McDonald's House

# Ministry to conduct index netting program on Lake Simcoe

If you're out on the waters of Lake Simcoe between Aug. 8 to 25 and see what appears to be some nets in the water, don't be alarmed.

No commercial fishery has started on these waters. Nor are the nets owned by any undesirable individuals.

The nets are property of the Ministry of Natural Resources Lake Simcoe Fisheries Assessment Unit, which will partake in the annual nearshore community index netting program.

Since 1991, the ministry has carried out this project with the intent of monitoring fish populations in Lake Simcoe over a period of time.

Frank Amstaetter, a spokesman for the ministry's Lake Simcoe Fisheries Assessment Unit, notes that the emphasis is placed on looking at warm water species such as smallmouth bass, largemouth bass and panfish.

Data such as species found, numbers, lengths and scale samples will be compiled from all the targeted fish found in the nets.

Also sought are stress factors that have been introduced into Lake Simcoe, like nutrient loading and the introduction of exotic species.



Mike Hayakawa

ic species.

When conducting the project, Amstaetter pointed out that a standardized sampling method is utilized where a number of specific rules have to be followed. Some of these include the same net size dimension, mesh size, water depth, time of year and distance from shore that a net is placed.

What helps to ensure the project is a success is the employment of trap nets.

Ron Allen, acting supervisor of the ministry's Lake Simcoe Fisheries Assessment Unit, notes these nets are designed to hold fish alive.

"The fish usually suffer no ill effects from the trap nets and are released unharmed immediately following the process," he said.

Since 1991, the ministry has placed nets in an area from

Island Grove to Mara Point. In addition to that core area, Amstaetter noted that, for the first time, nets will be placed in Cooks Bay.

"About half of Lake Simcoe will be covered this year," he said.

In addition, Amstaetter said the sites will be selected randomly with nets to be set for at least 24 hours before being relocated at another location.

"There will be four sets of nets placed out each week and, for one week, there will be six nets to be set," he revealed.

Since the project began, Amstaetter said some interesting findings have been made. Among them was the introduction of black crappies to Lake Simcoe.



"They came in the fall of 1987," Amstaetter recalled. "In 1991, 1992 and 1993 we saw some black crappies in our nets. But in 1994 the numbers were up quite a bit. And in 1995, we caught an average of around 200 black crappies in each of our nets."

"But in the last few years, the numbers have been fairly consistent," he cited.

Anglers are reminded that they may not fish within 25 metres of a ministry net.

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