

Equipment diverse, handmade

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was addictive. By now, a small crowd had gathered to watch the rookie archer — from a safe distance, of course.

I let another arrow sail. This one landed about a foot from my target. Now another one and another. With each shot, my aim improved until my arrows were only inches from my target.

"Clear!"

This time I was able to join the ranks and walk the 20 yards with pride to collect my arrows.

At this point, Fry called his 14-year-old daughter, Katherine, over to join us. She lent me her handmade 50-lb. bow and wooden arrows.

No problem, I thought. Wrong.

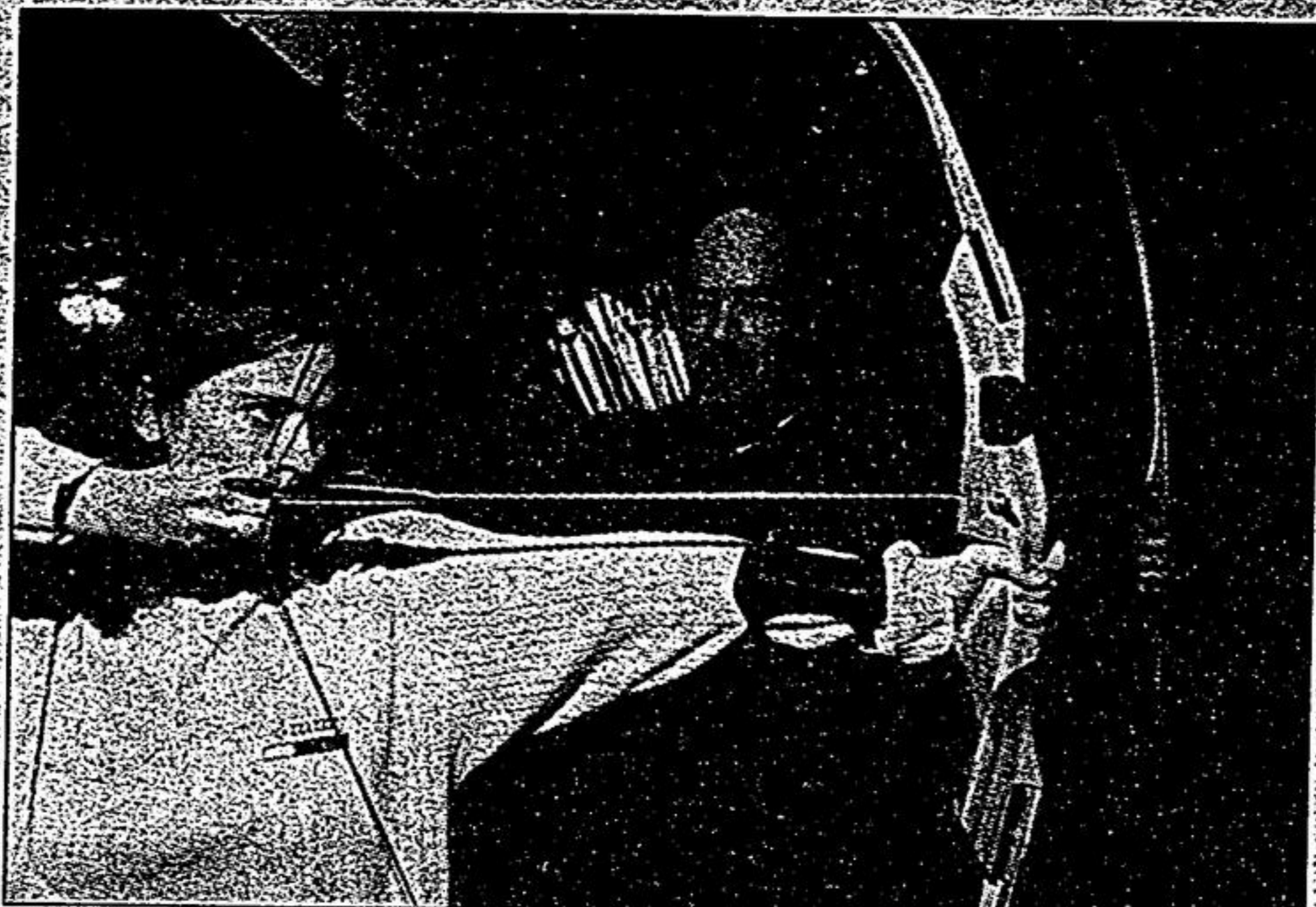
"I think I need to work up to this one," I told her.

"You have to start somewhere," she said. Katherine started shooting when she was eight years old, following in her father's footsteps.

Growing up on the family ranch in Michigan, Fry learned to hunt with a bow and arrow when he was only four.

It wasn't until he moved to Canada that he began shooting competitively.

He joined the York County Bowmen where he practises his primitive archery every Wednesday night. The Bowmen, started in 1956, is Ontario's oldest continuously operating archery club.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Reporter Amy West gets some pointers at the York County Bowmen archery range from Bill Fry.

Primitive archery involves wooden bows as opposed to modern instruments, such as crossbows.

Fry makes his own equipment. "I have as many bows as my youngest daughter has Barbies," he joked.

Most of the other members of this Wednesday night group have hand-made bows as well and were more than happy to show them off. Some had intricate designs and multi-coloured strings, others were decorated with fur and feathers.

The members themselves were as diverse as their equipment. All age groups were represented and one member even had his wife and son with him.

For those interested in learn-

ing the art of archery, the York County Bowmen offer six-week courses. They also run bow-making workshops.

After about an hour of practice, Fry wandered off and left me to fend for myself. In fact, no one paid much attention to me at all. Other members assured me this was a good thing. It meant I could hold my own.

With a grin and a thumbs-up to Fry, I let loose another storm of arrows.

I may not be off to the Olympics, but I think I've made a pretty good start.

Been There, Done That is a regular column where staff try to keep up with experts in a wide variety of recreational activities.

Many activities share hills

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The only thing certain in the ski resort industry these days is anything goes. Not only do facilities offer beginner ski programs for children, including school groups, but even the most radical activities that can be performed on snow are now able to find space on a hill in learn-to settings.

The drawback is, while some facilities try to be accommodating, the reality is few can afford to meet all needs by implementing radical changes.

"It's unbelievable how it has exploded," says Adrian Hudson-Walker, 29, a one-time skier who has been snowboarding for the past 15 years.

An owner-operator of Triforce Snowboarding and instructor at Mt. St. Louis-Moonstone, one of the few resorts in Ontario able to meet the demand for spectacular facilities, Hudson-Walker acknowledges so-called "extreme or rebellious sports" have matured.

"(Snowboarding) took a lot from the ski industry and now the ski industry is taking a lot. I think these are two sports that have to trade back and forth, but snowboarding has definitely broken the ice."

When MacDonald started working at Lakeridge as a ski instructor in the late 1980s, snowboarding was in its infancy. It was seen as the domain of free-spirited teens and the antithesis of what a ski resort was supposed to be, but it soon became a potential snowbank of money to be spent.

"You have to keep your business healthy and to do that you have to adapt as you go," MacDonald says. "It's amazing when you stop and think about it

We're trying to meet the needs of the public. If you don't, you get left behind. You just try to keep as many things on the go to keep people here."

On any given day in winter, at least a half-dozen activities share the hills, from family activities at snowtubing areas to terrain parks where aeriels are performed.

Participants of all ages can find an activity, from cycle-skiing to boarding and ski-blading to moguls.

THE LATEST CRAZE

The trick is not only finding a way to cater to the latest craze, but predicting what that next attraction may be in the snow-age evolution.

Snow-skating — think of skateboarding on snow with small blades replacing wheels — is touted as this year's hot ticket.

"The funny thing about snowboarding is it is a very rebellious sport by nature and that's what is attractive about all of this," says Ken Kell, owner of Adrenalin Sports in Newmarket.

"Kids are finding and thinking of things even before the resorts can (react). They accept snowboarding as a different kind of skiing, but kids are also finding other places to ride."

Resort operators understand there is more to their role than downhill skiing and it makes good business sense to keep an open mind.

"I have no idea what'll be out there 10 years from now," MacDonald says.

"Ten or 12 years ago, there were places that wouldn't let a snowboard on the hills, but you always have to be progressive and have the process always in motion. If you can get something together, we'll offer the venue."

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
 13660 Ninth Line
 905-642-4414
 Pastor - Dr. John Howarth
 (South of 47 Highway formerly Bloomington Rd.)
 Sunday, December 9th, 2001, 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.
 11:00 a.m. Communion Sunday
 Love One Another, John 8:34-35
 6:30 p.m. - Candlelight Service
 Everyone Welcome

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
 34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163
 Worship Minister: Rev. Robert Nightingale
 Education Minister: Nancy Monteith
 Sunday, December 9, 2001
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 Baby Fold, Children's Worship and Youth Pac
 Everyone Welcome

STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
 6853 Main St., Stouffville (905) 640-5696
 Sunday, December 9th, 2001
 10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
 6:00 p.m. - Christmas Banquet

Parkview Village
 12184 Ninth Line South
 Stouffville
 Sunday, December 9th, 2001
 Rev. Robert Shelds
 Christ Church Anglican
 7:00 pm Village Auditorium

Welcome to
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Sunday, December 9
 Worship & Church School
 at 10:30 a.m.
 Nursery also provided
 Carols & Christmas Cheer
 A concert of beautiful Christmas music will be held at St. James
 7:00 p.m.
 All Welcome. Freewill Offering
 Sharing God's Love since 1860
 Everyone welcome.
 6432 Main St. 640-3151
 st.james.stouffville@sympatico.ca

Wideman Mennonite Church
 • December 9th, 2001 •
 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education
 11:00 a.m. - Restored to A Healed Creation
 Pastor Ken Wellington
 1 km. North of Major Mackenzie on Hwy 48
 Church Office: 640-6219 For a ride call: 640-4185

VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
 473-3543
 Pastor: Robert Okum
 On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd
 Holding forth the doctrines of grace
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
 7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship
 Everyone is Welcome

Springvale Baptist Church
 Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
 887-5651
 Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
 Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton
 Associate Pastor: Brian G. Simcoe
 Student Ministries: Heather Thornton
 Worship & Music Co-ordinator: Sharon Russell
 Children's Ministries Co-ordinator: Sharon Russell
December 9th, 2001
 9:45 a.m.
 Pastor Bill Thornton
 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
 6:00 p.m. - TYF Children's Choir Presents
 "Getting Ready For The Miracle"
 For more info call Church Office

THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH
 254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville
 The Rev. Robert A. Shields
 (905) 640-1461
 Sunday, December 9th, 2001
 Second Sunday of Advent
 8:00 a.m.: Holy Communion
 10:00 a.m.: Service of Lessons & Carols
 Church School and Nursery Provided
 Everyone Welcome!
 e-mail: christchurch.stouffville@sympatico.ca
 web site: www3.sympatico.ca/christchurch.stouffville

STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
 A Fellowship Church
 6273 Main Street
 Pastor: Gordon M. MacCormack 905-640-2911
 Sunday, December 9th, 2001
 Bible Classes 9:45 am
 Part II of the study
 "Why is Christ the only way?"
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
 Message: "Preparing For The Comfort of Christmas"
 Kids Club closed until January
 Wednesday 7:30 pm
 Join us for prayer
 Coffee & crafts closed until January
 Upcoming Events
 Dec 23rd 6:30 pm
 A Candlelight Carol Sing
 Plan to attend and enjoy the spirit of Christmas
 "Bending down to lift up another is good exercise for the heart"
 All Welcome
 God Bless - We Care

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH
 (9th Line & Aurora Rd. Ballantrae)
 Join Us! Songs of Christmas
 Dec 16 - 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
 Everyone Welcome
 Call 905 640-4704 for more info