

Economist & Sun • Stouffville Tribune

SPORTS

Their own private fishing Shangri-La right next door

After spending a long and mentally draining day at work, Gary Finkler has an occasional craving to go fishing for just a few hours.

With the daylight hours dwindling in the early evening, the Newmarket resident would be hard pressed to find a body of water that's within driving distance.

It's even harder to find a place where the fish, on most days, will be co-operative and of a decent size.

Those obstacles do not stand in Finkler's way as he's found an angling haven that's only minutes from his place of residence.

Secluded on some 200 acres of land, just north of Hwy. 48 and Davis Drive, the Franklin Club has been catering to anglers and their families since the 1960s on a year-round basis.

"The accessibility is second to none," said Finkler, who along with his family, have been members since 1992. "There are times when I've picked up the kids at home after school and we'd bring up some hot dogs and hamburgers and have a barbecue and fish a bit."

"Since we live in Newmarket it's only a 20-minute drive. And when you get there, you think you're a million miles away from home. There's no big buildings, no apartments or developments nearby. It's serene and peaceful," he said in describing his angling Shangri-La.

Rainbow trout, weighing up to 10 pounds, and brook trout, that can tip the scales at five pounds, are in one of the three spring-fed ponds on the Franklin Club's grounds.

To ensure that there's plenty of fish in the swim in the three ponds to provide a top-notch fishery, and especially to keep the younger members keen on the sport, the club has its own hatchery on site where it rears its own fish and releases them.

Not only does Finkler take his family to the club.

The owner of a car dealership in Orangeville, he's invited some of his

OUTDOORS



Mike Hayakawa

employees and clients on occasion for a day's fishing and socializing.

At times, some of his guests will utilize the club's other amenities which include overnight sleeping accommodations.

As well, the club serves culinary lunch-hour and dinner delights at its dining facility five days of the week.

"It's a handy place for us to entertain our guests," said Finkler of his company outings at the Franklin Club. "Especially when we bring people from other countries who never get a chance to fish." When the youngsters get bored of fishing, Finkler says the club has a swimming area during the summer months and a play area.

Being a veteran member, Finkler likes to challenge his piscatorial skills at the club and does so by utilizing a fly rod, a discipline he picked up from fellow club members. Two of the three ponds are designated for fly fishing only.

The main body of water, known as Franklin Lake, can be fished from dry-land or via one of the 20 row boats they have available.

During the winter months if the lake is frozen solid, the club will put out some ice huts.

For more information on the club, call Jim Oosterbroek, club manager at (905) 473-1469 or e-mail him at frklclub@neptune.on.ca.

Ironheads happy to be home

BY MICHAEL LAUGHLIN
Special

Markham lacrosse fans get their first look at their new junior B team this weekend.

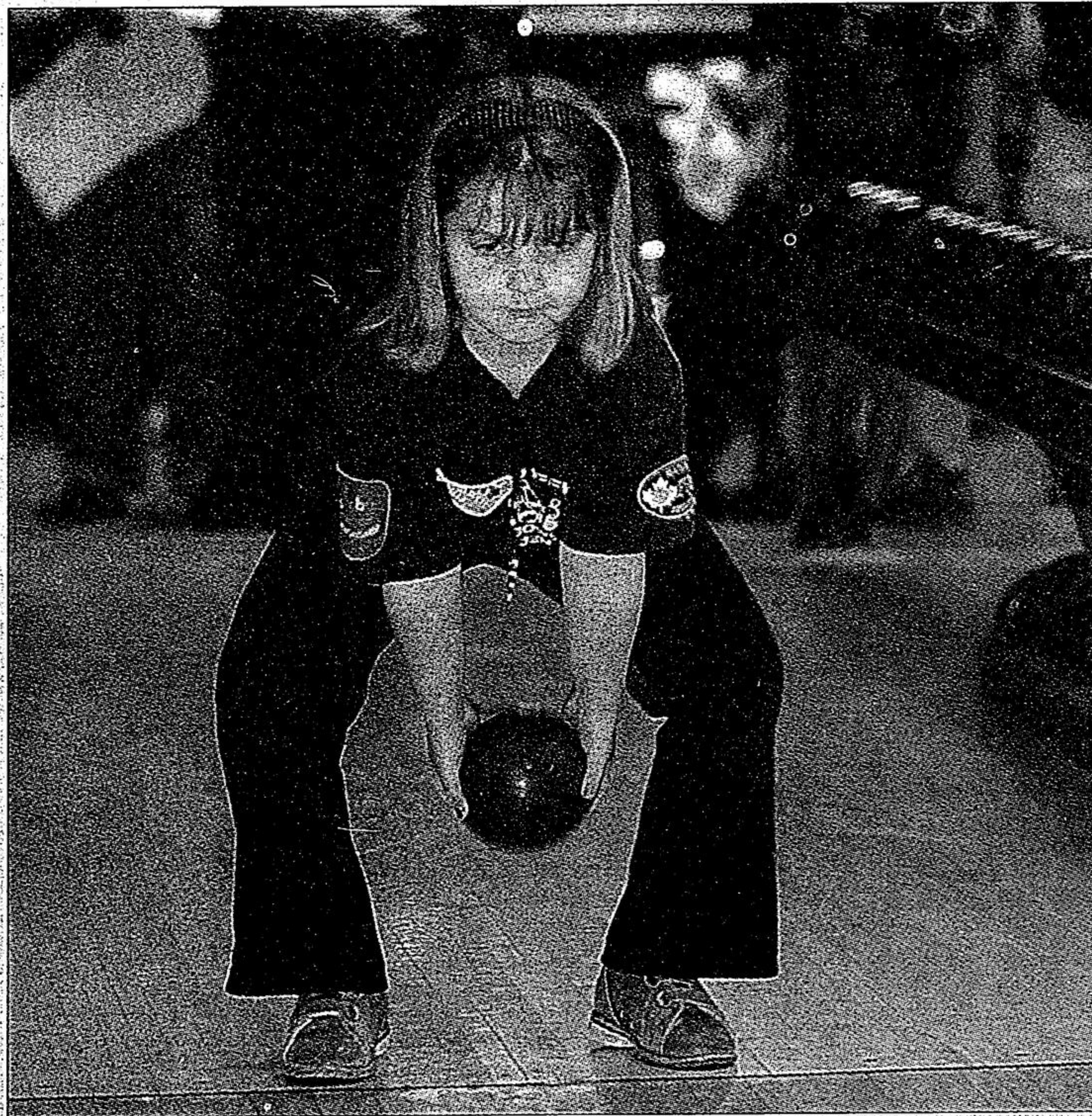
The Markham Ironheads, who hosted Milton in their home opener Friday night meet the Nepean Knights Sunday at 2 p.m. at Centennial Arena.

After dropping their first two games of the season by a combined 17 goals, the Ironheads seem pleased to come out of last weekend splitting games on an Ottawa-area road trip with the Gloucester Griffins and Nepean.

The Ironheads lost Saturday night when Gloucester made a late third period comeback to win 10-8. The Ironheads squandered two-goal leads four times, and defensive breakdowns and bad penalties cost them the game. Steve Dunn scored three times for the Ironheads.

Markham rallied on Sunday afternoon to beat the Nepean Knights 9-5, backed by three goals by Geoff Griffith and a solid defensive effort from Jay Watson. Coach Tim Clarridge credits the win with a good all-around effort, and great goaltending from Travis Caron.

ON THE LINE



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Stouffville's MacKenzie Moyer gets ready to roll at the Youth Bowling Council regional champions' tourney last weekend at the Stouffville Bowling Centre.

Finding that nine-year-old inside of you

ON THE LINKS

It has been said that the world is just a stage and we are merely players.

It could be said we are all the sum total of the roles or characters we play in the various aspects of our lives.

To be the best we can be, we must deal with all of the aspects of our lives if we are to perform to our potential.

What I would like to share with you is a different way to think of the various roles you must perform when playing.

One role is that of a nine-year-old boy or girl.

The reason we play any game is to let the kid that's inside us to have some fun. To perform our best the child must know that it is safe or all right to fail. If a parent or playing partner yelled at the nine-year-old for missing a short putt, he or she will be too scared to perform their best.

How would you feel if you heard somebody yell at a youngster like that?

I hope you would be shocked and appalled.

How many times have you yelled at the kid in yourself? (Too often I suspect)



Dave Woods

Treating the youth in you in that manner leads to future poor performance.

It is the role of the athlete in you to be in good physical shape and be ready to play.

To raise your game to the next level you must be physically and mentally as strong on the last few holes as you were on the first hole.

It is the role of the caddy in you to make decisions: choose the club to play, figure out the yardage and aim at the widest part of the green even if that is not where the hole is. Once the shot and club selection have been made, it is the role of the

nine-year-old to play the shot and have fun!

It is the role of the parent in you not to judge the result to the shot or the score but to support and love the child irrespective of performance.

The child is not a failure if a shot is missed or if a poor score is recorded.

A parent of a great Canadian golfer recently said the best thing he did to help his son as a parent was to give his son the opportunity to play and get out of the way.

Make one of your goals for this year to allow the nine-year-old in you to play, have fun and feel safe.

I hope that all the "characters" in you have a fun, safe, and successful year.

Dave Woods is provincial coach for the Royal Canadian Golf Association's Player Development Program and director of instruction at the Angus Glen Golf Club in Unionville. The 35-year-old Woods also worked at Meadowbrook Golf and Country Club where he was an assistant pro and a teaching pro, and at Glen Abbey Golf Club. Woods also works with Canadian Tour professionals Derek Gillespie, last year's Canadian Tour rookie of the year, and Jon Mills.