

**AFTER SCHOOL ARTISTS**



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

The office of Birkett-Hassard Insurance Brokers in Stouffville was the site of a new display of works by these members of the Latham Gallery's After School Art Club. Works by Camille Copetti (front) John Sampson and Rachel Dubenofsky graced the large windows of the Main Street, Stouffville offices.

# A love of soccer earns honours for Markham volunteer

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE  
Staff Writer

If you've played, coached, had a child in soccer or had anything at all to do with the sport over the last 23 years in this town, no doubt you know Lynn McGarrigle.

Even more than her time, Mrs. McGarrigle has given all she has to soccer here in Markham and helped the once small town grow right along with the ever emerging sport.

Ask her though, and she'll tell you it's been time well spent.

She started out with the Markham Soccer Club as a volunteer in 1980 and eventually served as secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary and club administrator. In 1988, she became the club's executive director, a position she holds today.

While Mrs. McGarrigle played a major role in helping the club more than double in size to 2,000 players over the last two decades, she has also been very active in helping shape the game in York Region and across the province.

Never one to say no to a volunteer board, she is a member of the board of directors for the Central Soccer League, Ontario Youth Soccer League, York Region Soccer Association and the board of governors of The Soccer Hall of Fame and Museum.

This November, she was given a meritorious service award from the Ontario Soccer Association.

The association's highest honour recognizes individuals who, over no less than 20 years, have rendered special service to the game, dedicating themselves to the assistance of others and the promotion and development of the game.

"I was thrilled to bits," she said of finding out she would be this year's recipient. "It's always nice to be validated by your peers, isn't it? Especially for volunteers, to even think that people notice. Especially somebody like me."

"I work in the background; I try to facilitate other people being in the limelight, so it is nice to get some recognition."

"It's well deserved," added husband Tom McGarrigle. "You can go anywhere in this province, to any soccer club and they'll know Lynn."

What she does is just for the game itself and she believes in that. If you work for the game all the kids will benefit, just do what's right for the game and that's what she does.

Mrs. McGarrigle was born in Lennoxton, Scotland, where they call soccer football, but moved to Canada in 1955. In 1968, she married Tom, a big fan of the game, also from Scotland and apparently quite homesick.



LYNN MCGARRIGLE: Helping soccer in Ontario for more than 20 years

Two years later, they moved back to Scotland and settled near Boghead Park, the home of Dumbarton Football Club.

"Tom used to go to the game on a Saturday and I would go out and do things like deadhead the roses, I would hear the cheers and all the excitement."

"I always want to be a part of everything, but in those days, not too many women went to soccer games. Anyway, I asked him to take me to a game," she said.

The match he took her to just happened to be the one that sealed Dumbarton's promotion from the second to first division leagues.

*"It's always nice to be validated by your peers, isn't it?"*

When the team scored the winning goal the fans began congratulating each other and, with Tom's blessing, almost every man in the stands gave Mrs. McGarrigle a friendly hug and kiss.

"That was my introduction to the game and I've been a soccer fan ever since," she said.

The McGarrigles returned to Canada in 1973 and seven years later came to Markham.

A neighbour convinced Mrs. McGarrigle to get involved with the club in Markham and then helped push a shy Mr. McGarrigle into coaching the game he loved.

"I did it for Tom, really, it's his sport. Right off the bat I did it for him because he loves it. But then you get caught up in it," she said.

"It's really rewarding, you meet a lot of great people and it's gratifying to see the club grow and see the sport grow."

"Not many sports could see the

growth that soccer has seen in the time I've been involved. It's been such a tremendous growth and change and it's been nice to be a part of it."

Mrs. McGarrigle also drove a school bus in town for many years and it was her time behind the wheel that helped her start one of the local soccer programs she is most proud of.

"I used to drive special needs kids and always knew there wasn't a lot of opportunities for the kids to get involved in regular activities," she said.

"I met this parent of a child born with Down's syndrome and he and I were chatting one day and I think he was a little bit wistful, thinking his little baby would never play soccer and I thought that's such a shame because really, soccer, anybody should be able to play soccer."

She asked the town to donate an hour of time at the Mount Joy Community Centre indoor soccer field and put together the thumbs up program for special needs kids with an emphasis on participation. The program later garnered national media attention as one of the first of its kind in Canada.

Although the accolades for 20 years of volunteering have started to pour in, Mrs. McGarrigle says she been getting satisfaction from her efforts for many years.

"A lot of things have made me proud, like when a young man comes in his late 20s or early 30s just to thank you because he was part of team here. That gives me that warm and fuzzy feeling."

"Some of them even come in to register their own kids," she said. "If I go to Tim Hortons and see that little five year old with a soccer shirt on... it's priceless, or seeing the special needs kids feel like soccer players, the same as regular kids with full uniforms. It's great to see kids feel so positive about themselves."

Mrs. McGarrigle said she is happy to see more adults playing the game these days and is impressed by the tremendous leaps made in the women's game.

But, in today's busy world she is concerned less people are volunteering to help.

She still enjoys watching a match, but it's more about the people and the fact the game has made her family a part of the community.

"I live in Markham, I live in the village of Markham and I love Markham. I think Markham is a great place," she said.

"And I'd like to encourage people to volunteer here, in any capacity, but particularly in amateur sport. It's very rewarding."

# Charges laid after youths shot with BB guns

Two Markham boys have been charged with assault with a weapon after two others were shot by a replica BB gun at close range Friday.

Police say two youths, one 13 the other 14, followed a group of boys walking near the Highglan Avenue and Hwy. 48 area and had words with one of the boys before walking up closely behind him.

A 12-year-old boy was then shot in the back of the head with a replica colt 45 BB gun. He suffered what police are calling minor injuries.

Police say a second group of boys, who witnessed the incident, were then followed by the suspects.

The group ran, but was caught and a second 12-year-old was held and shot in the shoulder.

He also suffered minor injuries. Both teenagers are facing two counts of assault with a weapon and possession of a dangerous weapon.

Police say the proliferation of replica weapons on the streets makes their jobs tougher, since the guns look so real.

"Yes, we take this very seriously, these weapons are a big issue for our officers' out on the street," said York Regional Police spokesperson Kathleen Griffin.

"Can you imagine what it's like for an officer who finds (a person) holding one of these things in a dark alleyway?"

"You really can't tell if it's a toy. They are being used in robberies and other crimes because they look real."

—Martin Derbyshire

# 6 escape unharmed from weekend porch fire

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

Six people managed to escape a fire in Whitchurch-Stouffville Saturday.

The fire at an old farm house on the Tenth Line, just south of Bloomington Road, could have had a very different ending if the occupants of two apartments weren't alerted to the fire and if they didn't have a way out, Chief Tim Beckett of Whitchurch-Stouffville's fire and emergency services said.

Working smoke alarms and having a means of escape saved lives, the chief said.

It was a very serious situation, he added. The porch was engulfed in flames, trapping occupants of both apartments.

A couple and their three children escaped by crawling out a bathroom window.

A man, the single occupant of the second apartment, realized he, too, couldn't make it out the front door because of the fire. He escaped through a back door, Chief Beckett said.

The tenants of both apartments had only lived there a week or so, he said. Due to the fact that there were working smoke alarms in both apartments and there were means of escape, everybody got out.

This fire is a good reminder of the importance of taking measures to be safe, Chief Beckett stressed.

"I would like to remind residents how important it is to have escape plans in place and to practise the plans."

The fire, which caused \$60,000 in damage, started when one of the tenants was burning boxes in front of the house.

The wind picked up a piece of burning material and blew it onto the porch, Chief Beckett said.

Burning boxes in this manner contravenes a town bylaw. The party responsible for lighting the fire was issued a warning, Chief Beckett said.

Once firefighters extinguished the blaze and cleared the apartments of smoke, tenants were able to return.

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