

Sun-Tribune people

Battery project charges up kids

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

Before departing for summer vacation, students at Whitchurch Highlands Public School did their part to better the planet one battery at a time.

The 26 Grade 3 students collected more than 4,000 batteries that were properly disposed of at a hazardous waste depot.

Ian Thorne, the students' teacher, led them in their Earth Day project. The drive, which finished last month, exceeded their expectations, with the students collecting 4,247 batteries in two months.

"The whole idea just seemed like a good fit," said Mr. Thorne. "It was a very successful project."

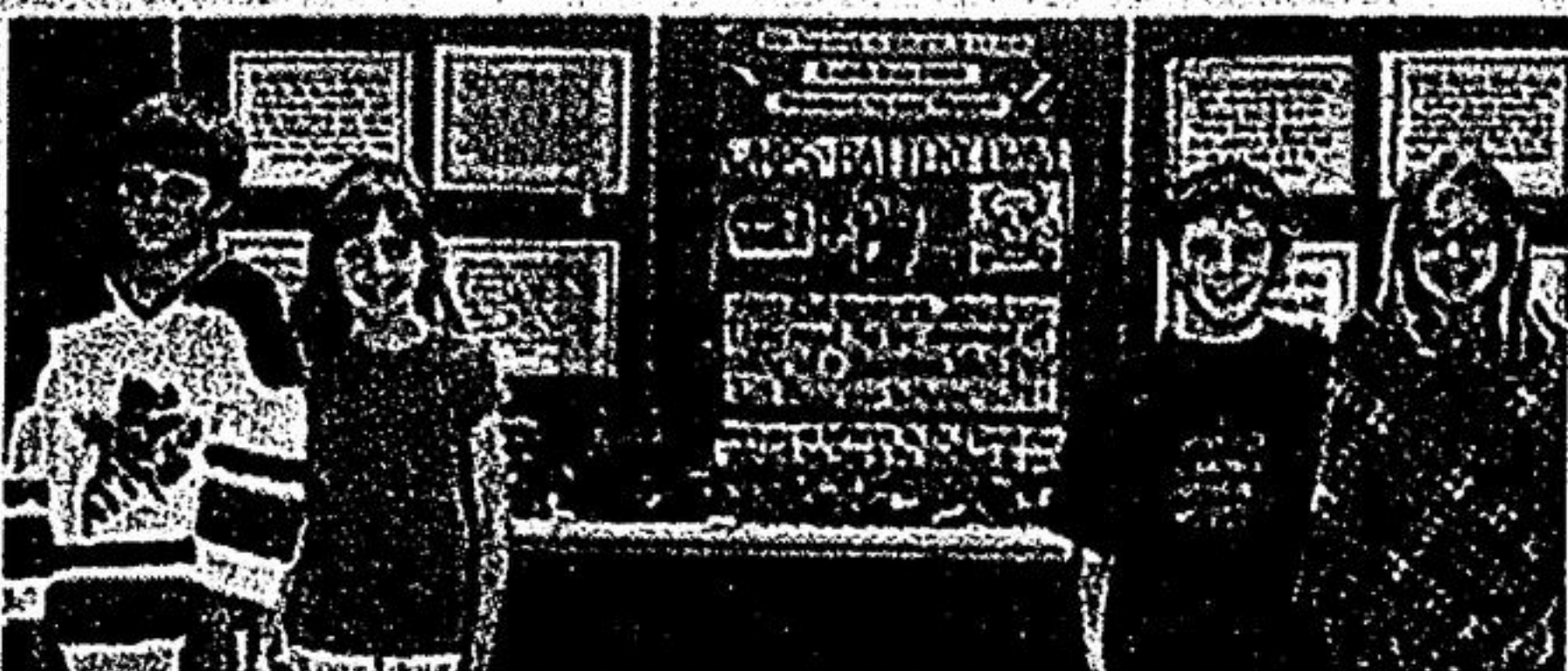
Since each person throws out approximately 10 batteries a year, the goal was set at 10 batteries per student. The original goal of 3,400 batteries was quickly passed and a new goal of 3,700 was set to account for the teachers in the school.

After the second goal was reached, they aimed for 4,000.

"The students loved the project," said Mr. Thorne. "They all had a hand in it."

Mr. Thorne delivered the batteries to the hazardous waste depot in late June.

Jaime Schouten, 9, Meghan Harrison, 9, Ryan Gold, 8, and Jack Turner, 9, are all in Mr. Thorne's class and helped out with the final presentation at the school.



Jack Turner (from left), Jamie Schouten, Ryan Gold, Meghan Harrison with the battery project at Whitchurch Highlands.

FACES & PLACES

"I thought this was a really good project," said Jaime, who also helped design posters and collected batteries for the drive.

Jack also agreed the project was a success and he learned a lot.

"The best part was going over two and three of our goals," he said. "We brought in quite a few (batteries) the first two weeks."

Meghan and Ryan admit to being more 'battery-aware' and says they hope people have learned from their project.

"Batteries are toxic and if you throw out even one battery, it goes to the landfills and can ruin the environment," Meghan said.

"I'm never going to just throw out a battery ever again," Ryan said.

Although Mr. Thorne admits he's not sure if the class will pick the same project next year, he's happy with the outcome.

"Now they (the students) will be more battery-aware," he said. "There will be a lot of second-guessing by people before they throw batteries in the garbage."

York Region operates household hazardous waste depots in Markham, East Gwillimbury, Vaughan and Georgina. For more, go to york.ca

MONUMENTAL TASK



Wayne Morris, owner of Stouffville Monument Works Ltd. on Main Street, places a stencil on a piece of granite in preparation for carving.

STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Whitchurch-Stouffville

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Brad May, Stanley Cup coming to town Aug. 15

Get ready for a visit from Stanley, Whitchurch-Stouffville hockey fans.

The Stanley Cup is coming to the Markham and Stouffville area Aug. 15.

Brad May, who grew up in both communities, won the cup this year with the Anaheim Ducks.

Details of the visit are still in the works, but residents will get a chance to see the oldest trophy in North American pro sports.

Players and officials with the winning team are allowed a day with the cup during the summer. The cup has been in Dryden, Ont., as well as Buffalo, Minnesota and Quebec this summer.

During the NHL lockout two years ago, ex-Leaf and cup winner Bob Hassard hosted the trophy at his home in Stouffville. Leafs assistant coach Keith Acton won the cup with the 1988 Edmonton Oilers, before the tradition of players hosting the cup started.

To follow the cup on its 2007 travels, go to: hhof.com

Taste of Egypt under way

Want to get a taste of Egypt on Main Street?

The third annual St. Bishoy Festival is on this weekend in Stouffville.

The event, which opened last night, continues today until 11 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church, 6500 Main St.

Featured are Egyptian and Mediterranean foods and coffee, carnival rides, games for children, as well as table tennis and basketball tournaments.

For more information, go to stbishoyfestival.ca

SOUND OFF

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