

With Binoculars and Camera

## Cranberry marsh haven for rare water birds

By Edge and Betty Pegg  
AJAX - We were cutting a load of corn for the cows the other day, when suddenly there was a loud bang. One of the tires had blown out.

While in the act of changing the flat, Harvey Medland, a teacher at Jarvis St. Collegiate, dropped by. Within a moment, the whole atmosphere seemed to change when Harvey exclaimed "It's all there. You name it at the corner marsh. There's Hudsonian godwit, pectoral, still and baird's sandpipers". He didn't have to say more, for we were already planning a trip there the following day. The corner marsh is located two miles due east of the Nuclear Plant, at the mouth of Duffin's Creek.

Arriving at the marsh, we found Don Pegg of Whitevale, photographing a bittern, less than ten feet away. A dozen or more great blue heron stood in the shallow water, and with the scope, we spotted coots, grebe and gallinule. Low water levels had left large mud banks and here the shore birds flocked, greater yellowlegs, still, pectoral and solitary sandpipers; dunlin, dowitchers and snipe. One shore bird stood away from the others - it was a baird's, a sandpiper which migrates chiefly

through the great plains. Ducks were plentiful and among them we found the rarest bird of the day - a pair of Hudsonian godwit. These large water birds are scarce and seldom venture inland.

Carloads of people were now arriving at the marsh and someone shouted "Geese!" We looked to see the 'honkers' flying south, 130 of them in their 'V' formation.

There were also geese at the Cranberry marsh on our arrival and in no way could we count the number of ducks. We did manage to check off 9 species. A fine flock of rusty blackbirds interspersed with redwings flew past us, but neither the osprey or

snow goose were visible, although both had been observed the previous day.

The 80 acre Cranberry marsh is soon to become a water fowl sanctuary if present negotiations go through. The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has great plans for this unique area, which is 3 miles east of Ajax. It's value as a breeding ground for waterfowl, and a stop-over area for migratory birds cannot be over-estimated. It is also understood that this sanctuary will not include recreation areas or picnic tables. In short it will be a piece of Canada - strictly for the birds and we're all for it.

## Gutted rink built by Betz

STOUFFVILLE - At least one person in Stouffville felt keenly the effects of a fire Oct. 3, which gutted the Tam-O-Shanter Golf and Country Club.

Ken Betz, president of Betz Construction, has been associated with the club since 1956, when his firm built the swimming pool. During the same year and the following one, Betz Construction built the banquet hall, kitchens and bowling

alleys. They erected the original curling rink in 1958, adding 4 more sheets in 1959.

Except for the swimming pool, all these structures were destroyed in Sunday's fire. Mr. Betz estimated the ruined buildings were worth "half to three-quarters of a million dollars".

William Sparkhall, owner of the Tam-O-Shanter, has not yet announced his plans for rebuilding. He predicted, however, that reconstruction of the facilities would take a year.



Receives pilot's wings

Lieutenant J. E. (Jim) Denovan, 24, of Willowdale, is seen here receiving his Canadian Forces Pilot Wings from Brigadier-General R. P. St. John. Jim is the first pilot to receive his wings since the advanced Flying Training School relocated to Cold Lake from Gimli, Manitoba this summer. A 1970 graduate of the Royal Military College, Kingston, with a degree in economics, Jim was undergoing his advanced training at Gimli, when he was taken out of action for three months due to illness. When he was finally able to resume training, he discovered that the School had moved two provinces away; however, he eventually got back to work, and has now been able to stage a one-man graduation parade. Jim's mother, Mrs. H. W. Denovan, resides near Ballantrae. (Canadian Forces Photo).

The U. C. W. ladies gathered for their regular meeting at the home of Mrs. Richard

Day. Mrs. Ewart-Orr was the guest speaker. Members agreed to set

Saturday, Nov. 13 as the date for their fall bazaar and tea.

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### Twins celebrate birthdays

By Mrs. Burnett Jamieson  
BALSAM-MT. ZION - Mrs. Richard Day and Mrs. Dorothy Noon who are twins, marked their 72nd birthday Sunday by enjoying supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ewart Orr in Stouffville.

Mr. and Mrs. Burnett Jamieson and Mrs. Lewis Jones attended the baptismal service for Ann Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Martin at Cobourg, Sunday.

## Great Ghosts it's Halloween

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## Teachers win 5.7% salary hike

YORK CTY. - York County's elementary school teachers have ratified a salary agreement for 1971-72.

The new schedule, gives them a 5.7 percent increase over last year. It will raise the average salary for 1,171 elementary teachers, excluding principals and responsibility allowances, to \$8,410 from last year's average of \$7,958.

With the inclusion of the system's 64 principals and the responsibility allowances for a further 114 people, the average salary is \$9,096, compared to last year's \$8,628.

Minimum salaries remain the same in all classifications. Teachers in Category 1 will move from \$5,400 to \$7,300 in five years, compared to last year's maximum of \$7,100 for this category.

In Category 2, minimum is \$5,800 with maximum now \$9,200 compared to \$9,000 last year. The maximum here continues to be reached in eight years.

Teachers in Category 3 however, will reach the maximum of \$10,900 in 10 years instead of the former \$10,600 reached after 11 years.

Settlement with the elementary teachers was reached after 14 meetings. Chief difficulty arose from category definitions which the teachers wished amended. The teachers have set up a committee to study this for next year.

In making the report to the board, trustee Jack MacKay, chairman of the board's salary negotiations committee gave warm praise to members of the teachers'

committee who had worked so hard over the negotiations, and also to the trustees who, he felt, had also done an excellent job.

Sunday skate Beginning this Sunday, there will be public skating in the Stouffville Arena from 2 to 4 p.m.

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