



PHOTO/ALYSHIA HIGGINS

Musselman's Lake residents check out a barge that was pulled from the Ninth Line lake this week.

'A disaster waiting to happen'

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long one for Ward 2 Councillor Phil Bannon, who has been working with residents on the issue for several years.

Several agencies were called to come in and help with the situation including the coast guard, Mr. Bannon said.

"As long as this boat has been sitting on the bottom of the lake, it's been a disaster waiting to happen," he added. "We told that to several ministries and no one was willing to step up to the plate and help us."

On April 23, oil was allegedly spotted leaking from the barge, prompting the Ministry of Environment to get involved. The oil spill has since been cleaned up.

While Mr. Bannon admits the removal of the boat was a huge milestone for residents, the work on the lake and surrounding homes has only just begun.

"It's the first step in a major clean-up," he said, adding he's going to continue to work with residents to improve property standards in the area.

"I believe the community will step up and work with the bylaw enforcement officers to clean up the lake," he said.

For Mrs. Jones, she's just happy the worst is over and the community can begin working on other things.

"We're relieved to see the community protected," she said. "I think it sends a message to residents we need to tighten up."

She credits town officials for the boat's removal, including bylaw enforcement officers Keith Saunders and Linda Mainprize, town clerk Michele Kennedy and Mr. Bannon.

The boat will be stored until discussions between Mr. Swanson and the Ministry of Environment are complete.

Mr. Swanson has refused requests for interviews.

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Benefit aids crash victim

It's a classic case of neighbours helping neighbours.

A fundraiser at Crossroads Restaurant last weekend raised more than \$2,800 for Joseph Van Gelder. Owners Steve and Melissa Fitzpatrick along with Kathy Fullerton organized the event.

Donations came from friends and family, as well as strangers, including Dutch Style Landscaping, Bouwmeister Landscaping, Tanning Zone, M & M Meats, Tony Tucci, Foxbridge Golf

Course, Chi Chi La Bombas and helpers Nancy DiGiovanni, Karina Becker and JoAnn Ledger.

The Carpet Frogs entertained.

Mr. Van Gelder, son of Marsha Defave and David Van Gelder, was in a car accident March 14 at Bayview Avenue and Hwy. 7 that left him in a coma.

He is at Markham Stouffville Hospital where he is scheduled to undergo rehabilitation.

The funds raised will go towards Mr. Van Gelder's long-term care not covered by his family's insurance.

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