

Not just minds at work at Stouffville robot camp

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Young wanna-be gear-heads, super spies, adrenaline junkies, adventurers and even mermaids will have the opportunity to hone and test their skills at the Cybercamp Robotics Academy in Stouffville this summer.

'MAKE SCIENCE COOL'

The day camp is open to girls and boys aged nine to 14 who have an interest in robotics and want to be creative by designing, building and programming robots that will solve a variety of real-world problems.

Experience, however, is not required, as each child will receive individual programs tailored to their skills.

"What we're trying to do is make science cool," said camp director Jason Wilson, a teacher at Oscar Peterson Public School.

While the camps are designed to be fun, "when they come out of it, maybe they'll have an interest in engineering," Mr. Wilson said, adding because of the current economic climate, a change in how we prepare the younger generation for a career is necessary.

"The last few months have shown us the jobs we take for granted won't be around in the future," he said. "(The new generation of workers) need to be problem solvers; they need to be able to work as a team."

Which are two concepts heavily empha-

sized during the four different cybercamp offerings.

"We give them challenges they have to solve (and) there's no right way, no wrong way," Mr. Wilson said. "It gives them an opportunity to work things out."

Each week of camp has a different theme: Tomb Raider is for adventurers; The Need For Speed will help students create the perfect vehicle that balances speed and power; Mission: Possible is for participants who want to create the perfect cyberspy; and Ocean Odyssey is for kids who want to create robots that rescue dolphins from nets, repair underwater oil pipelines and save the coral reef.

OSCAR PETERSON SCHOOL

All camps not only work the brain, but the body, too.

"We're trying to build healthy bodies and minds. I see a lot of kids that aren't as physically active as they should be," Mr. Wilson said. "Because the majority of the camp is focused on the mental aspect, we decided to add the physical aspect."

The physical component also means camp fees can be applied towards the \$500 Canada Children's Fitness Tax Credit.

Each day camp runs for five days in July at Oscar Peterson Public School and costs \$275 before April 1 or \$300 after that date.

More information can be found at www.cybercamp.ca



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Jason Wilson will be director of Cybercamp Robotics Academy in Stouffville this summer. The day camp is open to girls and boys aged nine to 14 who have an interest in robotics.

9, Stouffville Sun-Tribune ■ Thursday, May 21, 2009

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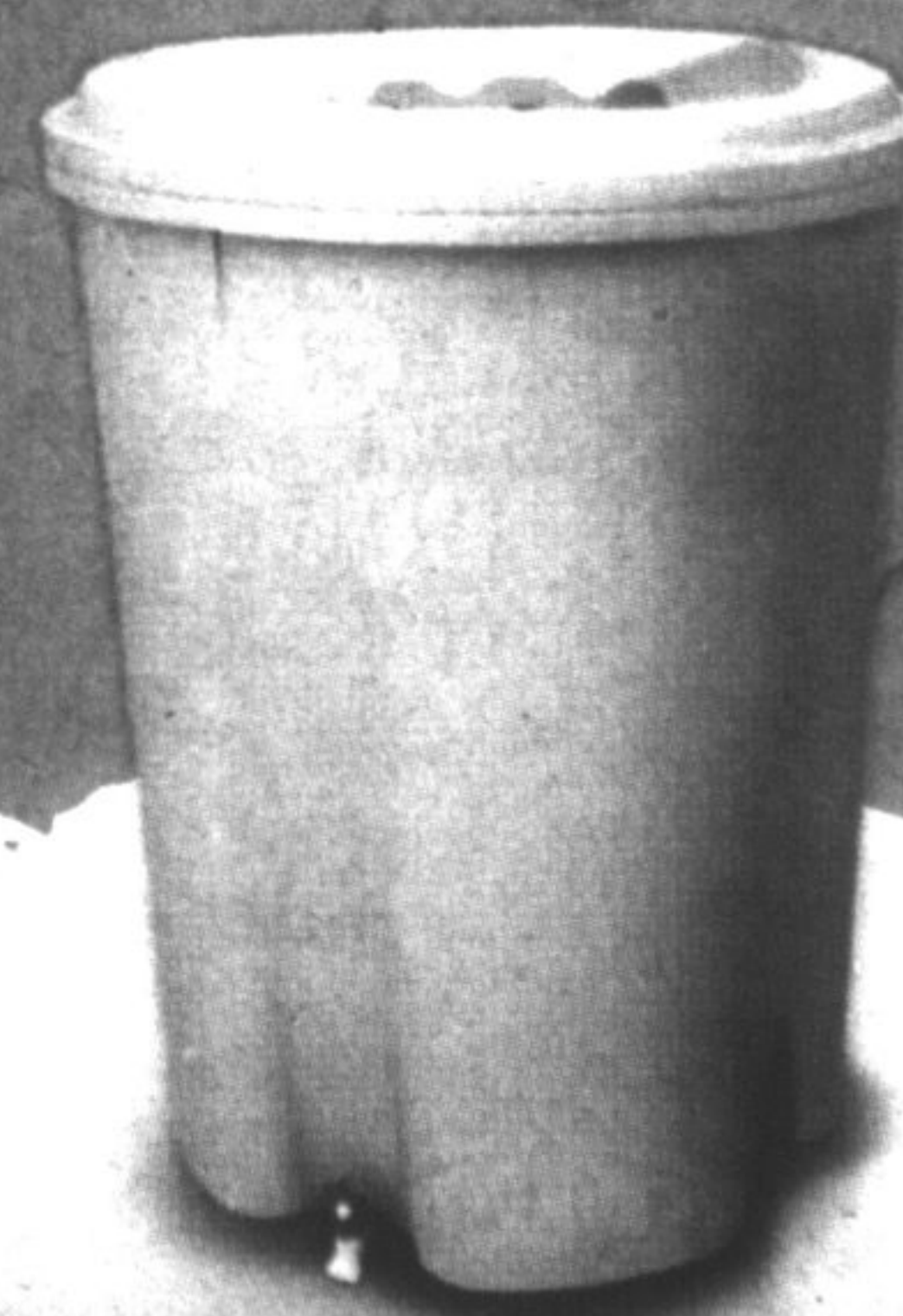
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