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Dad dies trying to save kids

*Went under boat after
cottage country mishap*

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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John Paul Farrell died exactly how he lived – taking care of everyone around him.

On Friday, Mr. Farrell, 46, was at the helm of his 16-foot motor boat pulling his 15-year-old daughter Abby and one of her friends in tubes through Loon Lake, while two of Abby's other friends rode in the boat.

The boat unexpectedly hit a wave on the Gravenhurst-area lake, ejecting the Stouffville man and the two passengers from the vessel. The boat's motor remained running, while Mr. Farrell and the four girls tried to swim to safety.

The girls were wearing life jackets. Mr. Farrell was not.

"He was exerting all efforts to ensure all four girls were safe," said Bill McLean, Mr. Farrell's brother-in-law. "His entire focus at the time ... was on the safety of the girls. JP was trying to ensure the boat did not injure the girls."

"He heroically went under the boat," Mr. McLean said. "JP's death resulted from impact with the boat."

Mr. Farrell owned the cottage on Loon Lake for 21 years.

He grew up in Richmond Hill

See **FAMILY**, page 8.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEN

Rick Wigmore (from left), president of the Musselman's Lake Residents Association, with association members Brian and Christine Laing on the shore of the Ninth Line lake. Two associations at the lake are trying to make improvements for residents, while squabbling.

Citizens groups can't get along in colourful Ninth Line community

Musselman's: A lake divided

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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From a popular stop for Canadians travelling between Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe, to an entertainment capital of Southern Ontario and even home to the infamous Boyd Gang bank robbers, Musselman's Lake has a past

like no other.

For much of its early years, the kettle lake area had a rather transient population, including summer cottagers.

But in the 1960s, those cottagers slowly turned into permanent residents, thus, creating a new chapter in the lake's history — year-round

residential neighbourhood.

Like every community, big or small, residents will have their differences. Some will result in higher fences being built between properties, while other squabbles will become nothing more than lore with too many renditions to decipher fact from fiction.

Some battles, however, are so entrenched not even the likes of the Dalai Lama can bring the opposing parties together.

Which seems to be the case with the Musselman's Lake Residents Association and Friends of

See **WAR**, page 3.

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