

Sailing the cardboard straits

By Chris Simon

Summer Hunt has had cardboard on her mind a lot lately.

The Goodfellow Public School Grade 8 student, along with three of her schoolmates — Jessica Arnott, Brittany Winter and Clayton McMillan — have been designing a cardboard boat, in anticipation of Skills Canada's Cardboard Boat Race, which took place at the Orillia YMCA earlier this week. The Goodfellow students took on eight other teams, competing in a variety of challenges meant to test the durability, practicality and overall look of the floating cardboard water crafts.

"It's a great experience for Grade 8," she said, sitting beside the protocol boat in a Goodfellow classroom last week. "There's math and all that kind of stuff involved in it ... it just sounded like fun."

Although the team has spent hours building a protocol boat, they were asked to build another one from scratch at the competition. The team had two hours to build and decorate their new boat, before being judged.

"They'll be judged on

three different criteria," said teacher Anthony Naccarato. "Creativity is one of them, team spirit and cooperation, and racing. They'll also be evaluated on how well they adhere to their plans."

Teammate Jessica Arnott says she's never before competed in an event like the cardboard race.

"I've never done something like this before," he said. "Getting a good design and making sure that it won't sink (is key)."

The students built their cardboard boat from a variety of materials, including two strips of cardboard, a tube of cement glue, a paperclip and a roll of duct tape. Then, the boats — which carried one team member — were raced across a swimming pool at the YMCA. The competition challenges students to use their scientific, mathematical and visual art skills, said Naccarato.

"We thought it would be an interesting and unique way that's a little different than what they could in the classroom," he said. "They get to apply it in a real life situation. They get to apply those skills in a unique way



Photo by Chris Simon

Goodfellow Public School Grade 8 students Summer Hunt, Jessica Arnott and Brittany Winter sit in a boat they prepared in preparation for the Cardboard Boat

Race, which took place in Orillia earlier this week. Along with teammate Clayton McMillan, the students built their boat within two hours during the competition.

where they're part of a team. They're under pressure and produce good results."

Naccarato is proud of the effort the team showed during the last few weeks.

"We're really proud of our students," he said. "So far, they've done a great job and

shown a lot of commitment to the project on their own time."

Bradford school reunion plans take shape

Preparations for the 150th reunion of Bradford and District High School continue.

With just over a year before the celebrations in May 2009, the BDHS150 reunion committee has been working hard to plan events and create a festival to transcend time.

"This is incredibly exciting for the whole team," says

committee chair Vicki Stam-Stiver.

"We've been planning the 80s reunion for a couple months and when we found out it would coincide with the school's 150th, we were blown away. Everyone from the committee is happy to partner up with the school to work together and plan the party of the century."

Bradford West

Gwillimbury Mayor Doug White is equally excited.

"What an incredible time in the history of our town. As Bradford West Gwillimbury celebrates our sesquicentennial (150th) birthday, plans are now well under way as BDHS reaches the same milestone next year," he said. "Best of luck to the organizers and a warm welcome to the hundreds of

graduates who will return home to rekindle old friendships and reminisce about the glory days of high school."

"It's right there in our committee objective," said Nikki Glista, reunion committee member.

"We wanted to encourage those who attended BDHS in the 80s to attend the weekend of jubilation, and now

the party just got bigger. We have 150 years of students to celebrate with. We want to reunite colleagues, teachers, staff and friends. (Whether you want to be part of the planning, or just to party with us during the event, everyone's welcome. We simply want to celebrate everyone from BDHS and to have fun."

The BDHS reunion is

scheduled for the first weekend in May 2009.

If you would like to register for the database, visit their website at www.bdhs150.com and fill out the appropriate form. Anyone interested in participating in the event planning can contact the committee chair at BDHS150@hotmail.com or call Steve Bainborough at 775-2262.

Books for Africa campaign underway at school

The Bradford District High School student council is organizing a town-wide book drive for children in Africa.

Recently, residents were asked to bring at least one book into a participating Bradford-area school. The books will be shipped to St. Paul's, Minnesota where they will be sorted before shipment to African schools

begins.

Kristi Weening, the BDHS student council president, points out that in Africa it is common to see five or six children sharing one book.

A huge demand exists for English books, as English is the official language in eighteen African countries. Africa is described as experiencing a "book famine",

said Weening.

Because most books are printed outside of the continent, many schools in Africa have to purchase their materials at with importation costs, an often onerous and nearly impossible sum of money for the poverty-stricken and war-ravaged regions.

In sub-Saharan Africa, there are over 42 million

children not enrolled in school.

Over 50 per cent of women in Africa are illiterate, representing the lowest percentages in the world.

The Bradford-area schools, led by BDHS, are working with the non-profit organization Books for Africa. The organization receives new and used books through donations for

African schools and libraries.

The UN Millennium Development goals include a pledge to achieve universal primary education.

"With primary school enrolments the lowest in the world in Africa, making this goal a reality requires equipping students and teachers with the lifeblood of schools; books," said

Simcoe County District School Board student trustee Jonathan Scott.

Gently used English fiction, non-fiction and textbooks may be dropped off at Bradford Public School, Fieldcrest Elementary School, WH Day and BDHS.

Visit www.books-forafrica.org for more information.

Bear Creek school recently hosted Simcoe County Science Fair

The 2008 Simcoe County Regional Science and Technology Fair took place at Bear Creek Secondary School last month. The fair was an exhibition of stu-

dents' scientific projects, experiments and collections. Project showcased original research and demonstrations of biological, chemical, physical, mathematical and

technical principles, a laboratory or other procedure, an industrial development or an orderly collection of anything in the broad concept of pure or applied science.

By participating in the fair, students were given an opportunity to conduct scientific research, display their scientific talent and are provided with recognition for

this talent. Students had the opportunity to exchange, both orally and in writing, scientific ideas with other participants, teachers, parents and the general public. The

fair helps students to develop science research skills and may encourage them to pursue a career in science, mathematics, engineering, and the social sciences.