



MARG SEREGELY

# It's a crying shame

*Citizens' efforts to clean up Junction Creek stalled by people who use it as a trash can*

BY BILL BRADLEY

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Junction Creek's brook trout, recently released by the public, may have trouble navigating some sections of the creek.

Shopping carts, tires and even a mattress choke a section of Junction Creek beside a walking trail used daily by Sudburians behind Food Basics on Notre Dame Ave.

"Look at this mess, it is filthy," says Karl Liebrecht. Despite efforts to clean Junction Creek, people continue to pollute.

"Look at this mess, it is filthy and the people just released fish into this creek, maybe upstream a few miles, but fish can swim down here too," says retired Falconbridge worker Karl Liebrecht.

"I do a lot of walking to keep in good health, so I use the pathways along the creek. Seniors like me do the city a free service by keeping an eye on things and complaining when things are not right, like this trash in Junction Creek," he says.

Liebrecht, who is originally from Germany, says his native country would not allow this kind of filth.

"In Germany they do not tolerate even cigarette butts thrown around like outside of the provincial building. It is all cleaned up and people are better educated about littering," he says.

He has complained to public works officials. Sometimes he gets action.

"I went to the mayor's office last year about trash in the Melvin Drive area. They did clean up that area," he says.

Often when someone complains about trash in Junction Creek, city staff refer angry citizens to a volunteer group, the Junction Creek Stewardship

Committee, says co-ordinator Carrie Regenstreif. "That area between Food Basics and the Salvation Army store is definitely one of the worst sections of the creek. We cannot keep it clean. Our volunteer group has cleaned it up twice, and we plan on being there again as part of a Sept. 17 clean-up, but our resources are stretched to the limit."

The group does not receive any funding from the city while providing about \$10,000 a year in volunteer clean-up services to taxpayers.

Regenstreif says a particular problem at the site behind Food Basics is that the creek banks can be steep and the water is deep, so she does not want to involve young school children in clean-up days.

"We are looking for some group, especially adults, to get involved in adopting this section of creek. Right now we have 10 groups adopting a section of the creek and we could use a group in this area to help us keep it clean," she says. "For example a community arts group, Myths and Mirrors, has just adopted the section across from the Loeb food store on Brady Street."

Myths and Mirrors plans to do a clean-up Saturday, June 18.

"We hope to make art out of some of the junk we pull out," co-ordinator Laurie McGauley says.

Daniel Bremner, manager of the Notre Dame Food Basics store is outraged about the problem of wayward shopping carts.

"I have to hire a contractor to pull those carts out of the creek behind my store. I just brought up 100 new carts from Toronto and they are all gone. Luckily my district manager was here Thursday when Liebrecht took us on a tour of our missing shopping carts sitting in the creek."

Bremner is looking at new technology which places sensors on the carts and locks up the wheels when they are a certain distance away.

"I also am complaining that the city is not doing proper maintenance in this area. You can't leave it all to volunteers," he says.

Councillor Lynn Reynolds says she has asked Greater Sudbury Public Works to clean up the area a number of times, but thinks it is time to enforce littering laws.

"This can't be tolerated. I have asked city council to double the clean-up budget but it was rejected. There is a \$5,000 fine for littering. Maybe we should fine someone," says Reynolds.

## Just can't keep this good man down

*Busy volunteer Joe Drago seeks OHF presidency*

BY SCOTT HUNTER HADDOW

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The care and concern from Memorial Hospital nurses and doctors showed for his dying father moved Joe Drago, emotionally and spiritually.

It made him want to give something back to the hospital and the community.

Soon after his father's death in 1983, Drago became a member of the hospital's foundation board and started a long career in community volunteer work.

Recently Drago, 65, was honoured with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Rotary Club.

The award is the highest honour the Rotary Club bestows. "It's definitely a special thing for me," said Drago. "The day after the dinner, my phone and door didn't stop all day. I got four fruit baskets and countless phone calls from people



DRAGO

congratulating me. One gu, who I haven't seen in 25 years called me. Even my former roommate from Clarkson University called to congratulate me. It shows just how important it is to be involved in the community."

Drago, a retired educator, expects to remember the evening forever. "My wife, Silvia, and one of my

daughters, Deana, both spoke at the ceremony, and I was moved by that," said Drago.

Sudbury Wolves head coach and GM Mike Foligno also spoke at the dinner.

"That was nice because I helped bring Mike to the Wolves as a skinny kid. My life has been around sport, education and community involvement."

Drago's list of community involvement is as vast as the many awards he has received over the years from organizations for being just who he is: a caring, compassionate citizen.

Drago's community work includes 12 years

on the Sudbury Memorial Hospital board, co-chair of Heart and Soul Campaign, 17 years with the Wolves' organization, commissioner of the NOJHA for 12 years and chair of the Alzheimer Society Sudbury-Manitoulin Capital Campaign.

"The Rotary Club motto is Service Above Self, and Joe embodies that motto in his contributions to the community," said Gerry Loughheed Jr. "Joe has been a tireless community builder, especially in the areas of sport, education and health."

Finding time to help is what makes Drago tick. "People do different things in life," said Drago. "Some people go to the casino or go camping, but my kick is being busy in the areas I like to support. It's a matter of budgeting your time and family. I have been lucky to have such a supportive family..."

Drago is looking to get even get busier, not slow down. He has put his hat in for the running for president of the Ontario Hockey Federation, which he is already the first vice-president. "There are challenges that interest me. It's a big job, but I have always been in those kinds of roles. I have enough leadership and administration experience to do the job."

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