

Stong Pond chosen as site for Olympic regatta

By RICCARDO—DO

Stong Pond will be the site of the sailing and rowing events if Toronto is chosen as the hosting city for the 2004 Olympics, according to a leaked Olympic memo.

The Memo, entitled **For Your Eyes Only**, was found in the bottom of a garbage bin in the loading dock. The janitor who discovered it, Gus Gustoferson, immediately forwarded it to *Excalibur*.

The memo seems to be a last ditch effort to sell Toronto as a viable venue for the Regatta, the absence of which would nullify the city's chances for the Olympics. In desperation, the Toronto Olympic Association suggested Stong Pond.

The document outlines the advantages of the pond in minute detail. Firstly, construction — which has dominated York's skyline for the past year — is due to end long before 2004. This construction has considerably transformed the school's appeal, largely doing away with poured concrete and creating buildings that "were met with much

approval by visiting IOC officials," the memo said.

Traffic, the memo added, could be dealt with much more efficiently in the York area than in the already-congested downtown core. Bus service, also faltering downtown, could be readily expanded to provide more transportation to the University.

Finally, aerodynamicists employed by the Toronto consortium, have — according to the Memo — commended the pond as "superbly suitable for sailing and rowing events." Supposedly, this group had discovered that the design of the campus had contributed to a special wind-tunnel atmosphere that lends itself easily to sailing.

There is no pollution at the pond either. Also, the planting of trees around the pond's perimeter has greatly enhanced the area's scenic value.

On the practicality of the pond, the memo notes that York has a large residence spaces which virtually empties during the summer and can easily accommodate the athletes. Gyms such as Tait and the Track and

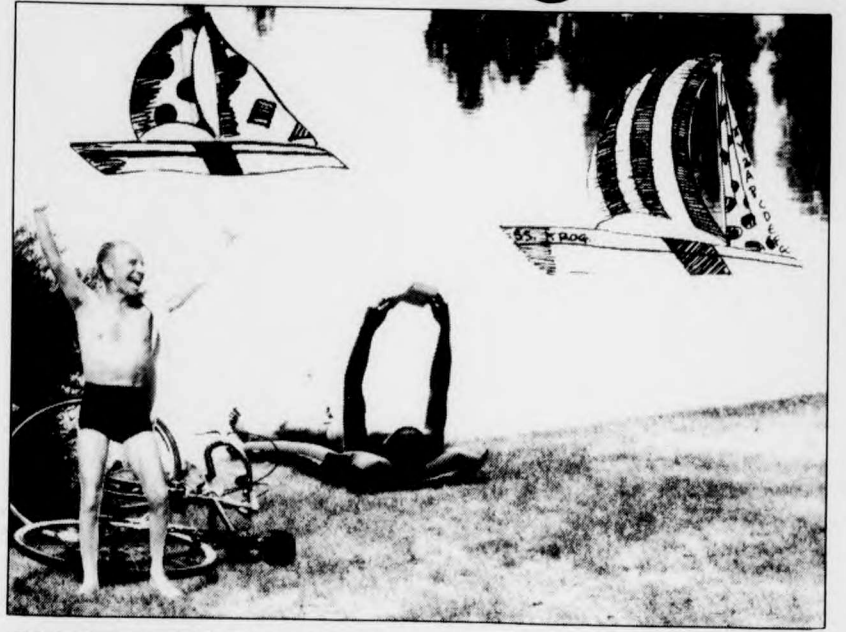
Field Centre can be readily converted into "hangars" for some of the larger boats.

As an acid test, the memo notes that the Toronto group invited several famous boatmen, such as Dennis Conner, Captain Highliner, and Captain Nemo to view the Stong site. The review was positive, and the Toronto group has put its full backing behind the Stong Pond site for the sailing and Rowing events.

According to the memo, the original site, Toronto's lakeshore, was eliminated because construction along the Lakeshore has ruined the aesthetic value of the area. As well, endemic pollution from factories and refineries in the area has considerably fouled the water.

It quoted one International Olympic Committee (IOC) member as saying "You've got a very nice city, but problems such as the airport congestion, transit inefficiency, and the deteriorating lakefront are small factors that will go against you when it's time to choose the (Olympic) site."

Kingston, the site of the sailing



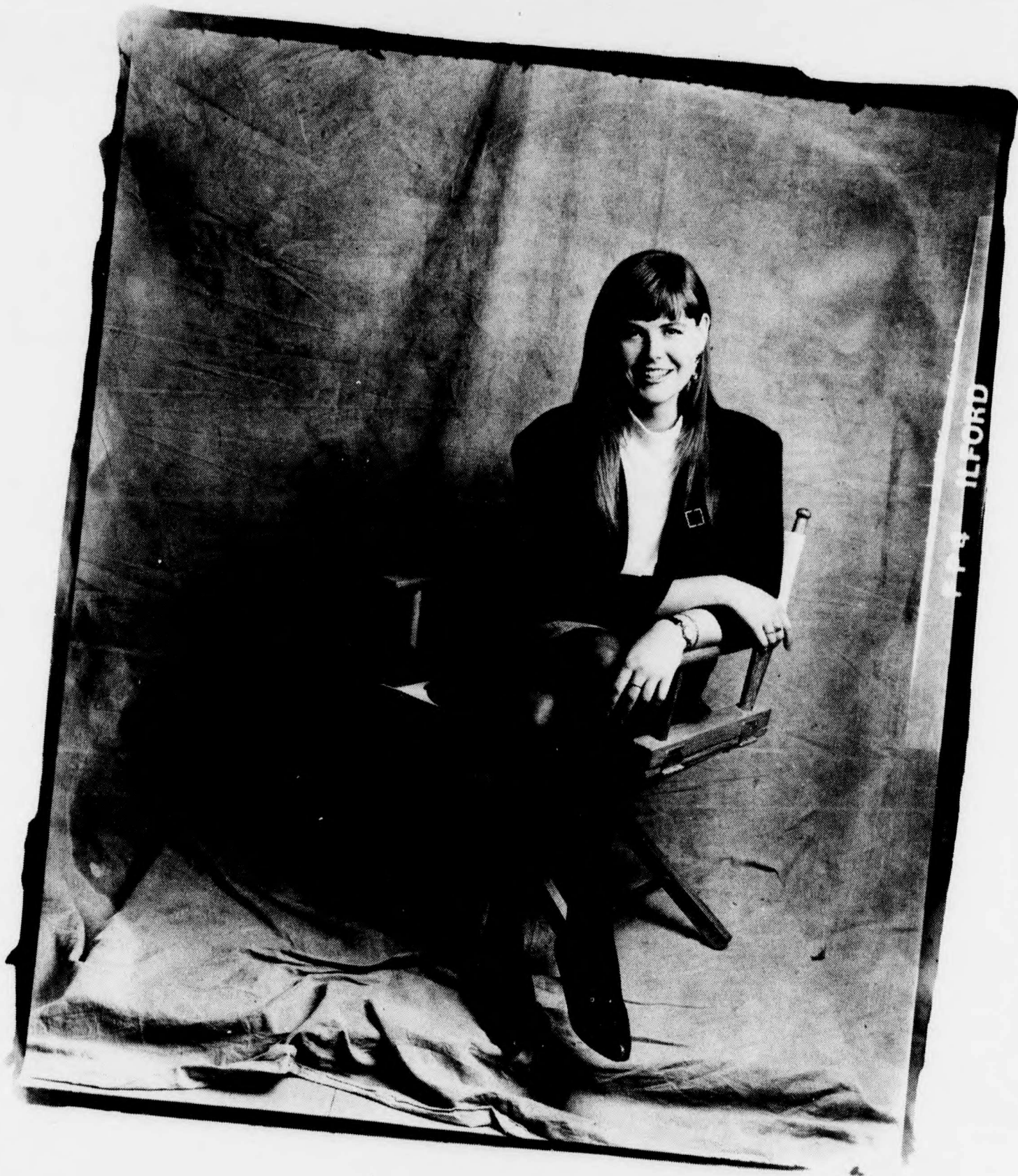
REGATTA-BOUND: A York undergrad rejoices over the prospect of having the Olympic sailing events at the Stong Pond.

events at the Montreal Olympics, was proposed, but the idea was quickly nixed in the memo.

Unfortunately, key members of the Toronto Group as the lobbyists

called themselves) have not yet confirmed the contents of the memo.

Calls to their offices have brought repeated denials about the contents. Stay tuned for more.



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Drag racing

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ping sixpacks and burning rubber."

With all the planning in place, it seems doubtful that the project will be stopped now. While the actual length of the strip will be rather short (the length of the corridor, with a short runoff past the doors as opposed to the standard quarter mile) the fact that most of the competitors will be school students bringing their own bikes means that the short run will not be a real problem.

Stadenko described the layout.

"We'll organize the runs according to the different bikes. There'll be Harleys, BMWs Japanese bullets bikes, with the eye on keeping the spot fair for the amateur racer."

One possible future prospect is staging an International Drag Meet (IHRA) or National (NHRA) at the Central Square centre. This prospect has the University dreaming big. International television would be sure to cover this one-of-a-kind event; a major drag meet held indoors would mean millions of dollars in York's coffers from coverage payments.

Recently, motorcycle drag champions Terry Vance and Dave Schultz were here at York examining the strip.

Both were totally taken over with the idea. Said Vance: "An indoor track is the best idea I've seen in a very long time. Being indoors, the run is free from the weather changes that often ruin hard-worked runs. The surface here is excellent, offers excellent grip."

Schultz was slightly more critical. "I'm just worried about safety. Vance is right about the surface and the indoor concept, but you have to work on protection also," noted this several time International champion.

"You'd have to work on the central pillar. As well, you'd have to get a hell of a lot of strawbales to line the corridors. I'd hate to see someone lose control of their bike on this strip."

With the top machines cranking out over 200 horses, Schultz' concerns are not unfounded.

Stadenko, though, promises to have all the required safety devices in place if York is allowed to stage the top events.

The staging of this event will help to draw attention to York. Already, the University has been besieged by questions from students about the drag-strip proposal. Stadenko meanwhile, is steadily ironing out details about the Central Square drag-strip.

"Just wait and see," he says, "it'll be great."