

Susie's Swim for Shrine Kids

KINGSTON SHRINE CLUB

Susanne Robinson, a Bowmanville, Ontario resident, is a wife, mother of two, Erica 8 and Trent 6 and is an avid swimmer.

She is a member of the Clarington Swim Club and her coach is Karen Stinson.

She is the daughter of Noble Eric and Lady Linda Welbanks of the Kingston District Shrine Club.

In her childhood she tagged along with her parents to multiple Shrine fundraisers but it was a visit to the Shriner's Montreal Hospital that sparked her interest in raising funds for the Shrine cause.

She started intensive training at long distance swimming in 2005 and decided that the Rameses Shriners Transportation



Fund would be the beneficiary of any funds that she could raise.

In the summer of 2007 she successfully swam Lake Erie from North to South and set a world record in completing the 19.2 km distance in 8 hours 14 minutes.

As a result of this venture, she was able to see donations of over \$3,000 go to the Transportation Fund.

In 2009 she set a goal of swimming Lake Ontario to again raise money for the Transportation Fund.

Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate as the water temperature of 13 degrees Celsius made the attempt impossible.

Again in 2010 she felt that she wanted to attempt the Lake Ontario swim.

On July 5th at the Imperial Ladies Luncheon she was recognized and it was announced that Susie would attempt the "Susie's Swim For Shrine Kids" on August 10th.

The guest speaker at the luncheon was Bonnie St. John and she offered her great encouragement to go for her goal.

In the early morning of August 10th Susie slipped into the water at Niagara-on-the-Lake Ontario.

With the support of fourteen crew members including her parents, brother and sister Shawn and Cheryl it truly was a team effort as the flotilla of two Zodiacs, a Kayak, a 40' sail boat, a 39' power boat, coach, swim master, John Munro set out, one stroke at a time.

Ambassador Emeritus Rick Stokes was at Niagara-on-the-Lake to see them off and PP Robert Whitmarsh and his Lady Doreen as well as Nobles Art Wilcock and Noble Paul Natele drove their cars from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Bronte as part of the logistics.

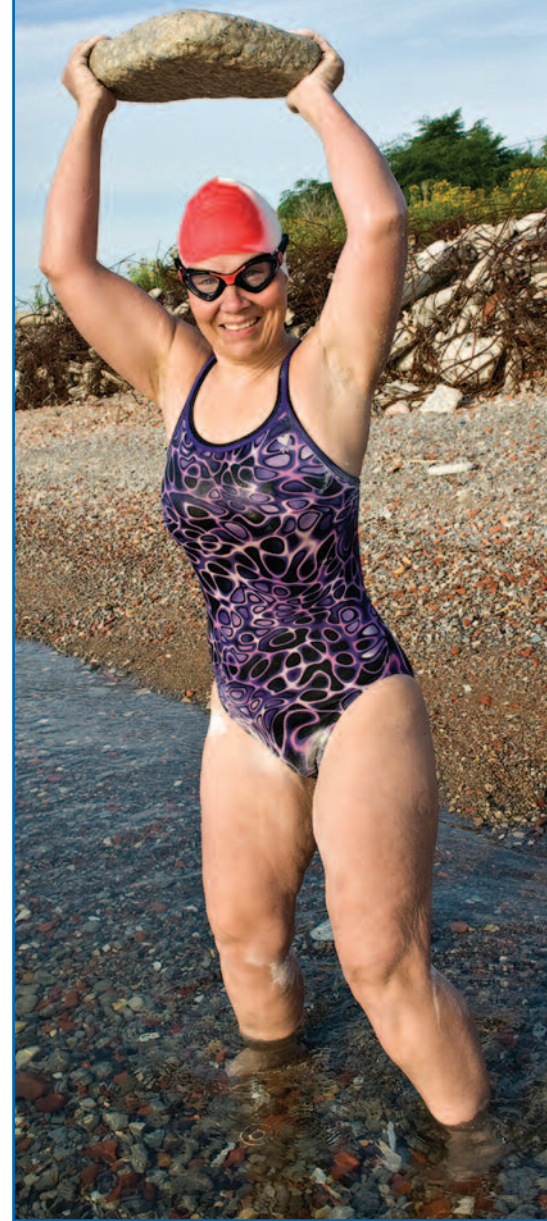
Feeding was every 30 minutes (no touching allowed) and the slow trek toward the north shore destination proceeded.

The first 18 hours could be considered normal for a marathon swim. However the next two hours saw Susie swim hard against strong currents with no progress at all.

With considerable effort and encouragement she swam for the next six hours, and 24 hours and 28 minutes after the start she touched the shore in Toronto.

She became the 43rd person in the world to defeat Lake Ontario after a 52 km swim.

Susie wants to thank all of the Shriners, their ladies and others for their encouragement and support.



Susie will be at the Trent Valley picnic to make a donation to the Rameses Shriners Transportation Fund.

She also asks that everyone consider donating to the Rameses Shriners Transportation Fund 3100 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario, M3M 2H4.

