

Brenda Lussier's historic attempt to cross Lake Ontario brought to an end due to illness brought on by weather conditions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toronto, Ontario: July 22, 2009 - Today at 1:45 pm Brenda Lussier began her historic attempt to become the first Deaf person to swim across Lake Ontario. Brenda's Swim had already been rescheduled once due to inclement weather conditions. Despite unseasonably cool weather resulting in uncomfortably cold water temperatures, Brenda was determined to swim Lake Ontario in order to raise funds and public awareness about the Ontario Camp of the Deaf (also known as The Bob Rumball Camp of the Deaf.)

An oncoming storm which is expected to hit the Greater Toronto Area this evening, (resulting in thundershowers, winds of 25 km an hour and 10 mm of rain) has caused unusually high waves in Lake Ontario. Almost immediately upon starting her swim, Brenda was faced with 4 foot waves, which soon grew to 7 feet in size. The 7 foot waves, 23 degree temperature and 20 km an hour winds made Brenda very nauseous and caused her to become extremely ill. The crew in Brenda's flotilla did their best to shield her from the elements but conditions became too much for her to overcome and she was forced to bring her attempt to a premature end. Despite the conditions Brenda did manage to swim over 11 kilometers.

The Bob Rumball Foundation for the Deaf is proud of Brenda Lussier's valiant efforts and steely determination in pursuing the crossing of Lake Ontario despite the unseasonably cold weather and inclement conditions. Remarkably, despite the conditions, Brenda refused to come out of the water until she was informed that she would be allowed to attempt this crossing again in the future. After witnessing Brenda's bravery, there is no doubt that she will one day accomplish her goal of being the first Deaf person to swim Lake Ontario. The Bob Rumball Foundation for the Deaf would like to sincerely thank Brenda Lussier's supporters, the media, and the public who have supported her courageous efforts.

The Ontario Camp of the Deaf (also known as The Bob Rumball Camp of the Deaf) was founded as a result of Reverend Bob Rumball's desire to create a place in the summer vacation heartland of Ontario, where a Deaf child could enjoy everything that a summer camp could offer, but in an environment without communication barriers. The Camp is a place of opportunity for Deaf, hard of hearing and physically challenged individuals, staffed by professionals who are fluent in American Sign Language and are capable of assisting those with Special Needs.

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