

Pong Boys Saved From Drowning By Prompt Action Of Girl And Youths Off Stoney Point

Jackie and Billie Pong, 10 and 7-year-old sons of Jack Pong, Bradford restaurant manager, had a narrow brush with death by drowning off Stoney Point, Lake Simcoe, last Friday, when they drifted into water some eight feet in depth while floating on inflated tire tubes, then fell into the lake. Neither boy can swim and the alarm for them was raised by their elder brother, Gene, who stood, neck deep in the water, and helpless to aid the smaller brothers, called for help.

Two boys from Stoney Point, Don West, 14, and Hal Cameron, 13, son of CBC newscaster, Earl Cameron, were boating when they heard the cries for help and going full speed to the scene found Billy Pong floating below the water, gradually sinking. They rescued him and brought him to shore where he was cared for by cottagers until later taken to Barrie hospital.

Robert Nucky, 13, and Billy Newton, 14, also of Stoney Point, arrived at the scene and spotting young Jackie Pong on the bottom of the lake, Robert Nucky went down and got him. Others joined in helping at this stage and Jackie was brought to shore, but he was in poor shape and it is said that he owes his life to a young girl, Linda Dempsey, 12, who applied artificial respiration until police arrived with a resuscitator. Oxygen was administered for three-quarters of an hour before he was moved to Barrie hospital.

Billy was released from hospital on Friday evening, but Jackie had to remain until Saturday.

The rescue of the two Pong boys by youngsters of such tender years does credit to the latter's courage, quick thinking and resourcefulness. It was a rather wonderful performance for a group of children.