

# Sports Outlook

## Bigger challenges ahead for Vicki Keith

Don't be surprised if marathon swimmer Vicki Keith takes on an even bigger challenge in the future than her Great Lakes conquest of last summer.

That's the word according to Georgetown resident Drew McGowen, co-ordinator of Keith's Great Lakes swims, and its inherent message was one he passed along to a full house during the 12th annual Halton Hills Municipal Awards Night on Feb. 8 at John Elliott Theatre.

"Vicki says when you dream, dream big," said McGowen, the guest speaker at the Feb. 8 ceremonies. "If you believe in yourself you can obtain almost anything."



Drew McGowen

Last summer Keith tackled a most formidable task, one never attempted by anyone before. She set out to swim across all five Great Lakes and in the process not only accomplished the feat in record times, but also raised over half a million dollars for the Variety Village charity.

McGowen, currently studying law at York University, was in charge of crew and media arrangements for Keith. "I used to tell Vicki she had it easy," he quipped. "She'd swim for 54 hours in a lake and cover 165 miles and I'd tell her all she had to do was swim. I did everything else."

The serious side of McGowen's address was spent relating Keith's incredible accomplishments to everyday goals in life.

"You all have the power to be winners," he told the audience. "Not just in sports and games, but in life."

McGowen told the crowd of 202 honored athletes and community award recipients that it takes four qualities to succeed in life - positive self-expectancy, positive self-motivation, positive self-direction and, most importantly, positive self-discipline.

"Winners expect to win in advance," said McGowen.

"Vicki was able to do what doctors and experts said was impossible because she expected to beat the lakes, and she did."

McGowen fondly recalled his

first meeting with Keith. "I asked her what she wanted to do and then we suggested she start with something easier. 'I am,' she told us." McGowen said swimming twice across Lake Ontario was "like two lengths of a pool" for Keith.

While McGowen challenged those in attendance to "bet on yourselves" and "be goal-oriented," he also cautioned against setting one's sights too high.

"Don't set your goals too high, make them obtainable," he said. "Put them just out of reach, not out of sight."

McGowen said the award recipients in attendance all had the power to focus on a goal. "You're like intense laser beams," he said. "You're very strong and focused. You all have power of purpose. It puts your money where your mouth is."

According to McGowen, Keith realized her goals of swimming all five Great Lakes in one summer by visualizing each crossing well before the actual attempt. "She visualized each day about how she would conquer each lake. She said she had a clear picture of what she was going to do in each lake and she said she could do it in her sleep."

Indeed, those words proved prophetic as McGowen said Keith hallucinated during various periods of her swims as she actually fell asleep while swimming. "Once she dreamed she saw Martians on the bottom of the lake inviting her down to play ping-pong," cracked McGowen.

McGowen said a lot of people don't realize that Keith swam or treaded water during her entire time in each of the Great Lakes. "She wasn't allowed to touch the boat or anyone on board," he said. "Her rest periods consisted of floating or treading water and she took all her nourishment in the water."

And what's on the horizon for the newly-crowned Queen of the Great Lakes? According to McGowen, an ocean swim around the globe is not entirely out of the question. "I would expect a major announcement in the future," he stated.

As for Halton Hills' 202 honored individuals, McGowen urged them all to continue to pursue their goals with vigor.

"If you remember how you got here and apply it to life, you'll always excel and be a winner at life," he concluded.



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### Close, but...

Raider star Travis Cole actually missed the net on Blades which got under way Thursday and Friday, this shot against the Oakville Blades in Georgetown's regular season-ending 7-3 loss last weekend. The Raiders are hoping Cole and the rest of the Georgetown crew can find the range in the club's best-of-seven quarter-final playoff series with the

## Pins flying in battle for Combo Team spots

Last Sunday, the lanes at Georgetown Bowl were filled with local youth five-pinner, battling for the honor of representing the community in the Combo Team Championships.

Each young ladies' team and young men's team included a bantam, a junior and a senior bowler (acting as captain) that had qualified in league play. Each team tried to beat their team average by the most pins for three games. And, the girls' team of Jody Tunney, Erin Riley and Robin Zander reached the top, beating their average by 294 pins.

The second place team had a plus 189 with bowlers Nancy Larocque, Kerry Wright and Janice Cano getting the honor of being the runner-up replacements to the first team.

In third place were Monica Beuparlant, Cindy Smith and Shari Loke. The best efforts were made by bantam Nancy Larocque with the highest single of 196, junior girl Kerry Wright with 208 and senior girl Shari Loke with 257 followed by Tracy Ball's 253.

The boys' team to finish at the top of the heap by a large margin was that of Jeff Pringle, Paul Burgess and Rob Fleming with a plus 276.

The runners-up, with a plus 158, were Paul Larocque, Jim Norton and Steven Hayden. In third place came Kevin Burbine, Geoffrey Beuparlant and Ed Doyle

with a plus 119. The exceptional achievement of the day was a game of 254 by bantam Jeff Pringle. The top junior boy was Paul Burgess with 256. The senior honors were between the 307 of Steven Hayden and 305 of Brian Bell.

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## Ice Gems hope to sparkle

The Georgetown Figure Skating Club Junior Precision team, the Georgetown Ice Gems, travelled to Thorold on Saturday, Jan. 28, to take part in the Niagara Precision competition.

For a lot of the skaters, this was their first competition and they were excited and nervous, not knowing what to expect. Unfortunately, they were to compete against two of the top teams in Central Ontario, and in spite of a good performance were not able to place in the medal standings.

Disappointment in their own

placing was tempered by an admiration for the skill and beauty of the routines performed by Unionville and Scarborough. This translated into excellent effort and hard work this week as the team returned home to begin practising for their next performance in the G.F.S.C. carnival "Just Cruisin'" on Apr. 1-2 at Memorial Arena.

On Saturday, Feb. 18 members of our Precision teams will be knocking on your door, selling chocolate bars.

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