

# SPORTS & LEISURE

## Klarner at home on the ice... or horseback

By **EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

In the space of just one week, Linda Klarner was the recipient of championships in two very different sports.

The 53-year-old local resident won the Ontario synchronized skating title with her Mississauga-based team, Precise Ice, at the annual competition in Newmarket, just a few days before collecting the novice-level overall points award for the equestrian Ontario Competitive Trail Riding Association 2012 series.

"I'm on two teams. One speaks English, the other doesn't," deadpanned Klarner, who has won nine previous regional titles with Precise Ice, but is relatively new to trail riding.

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—Linda Klarner

As a youth, Klarner loved riding horses, but wasn't able to devote the time to get involved competitively. Now, she's able to spend most weekends of the spring and summer months riding I'm No Angel, a nine-year-old Arab mare in her prime,

on the trail circuit.

The duo won five of the six events in the series and placed in the top three in three different categories in the OCTRA standings and in the other discipline, endurance, Klarner and I'm No Angel finished 55th out of 55 entries, which was her goal all along.

"When I started I said I don't care if I'm dead last, and well, I was dead last, but that's okay," she added.

"That's what you want to do in the first year is to train the horse very slowly and bring them along. In competitive trail, being first is a goal you can achieve because it's all done on the heart rate and the conditioning of the horse, so it's reasonable to expect that if your horse is well enough conditioned, you can do a competitive



trail ride, which is about 25 miles at five miles an hour. That's a good starting pace for you and the horse. When you get to the 50 milers (endurance trail), people who are winning the races are doing like 16 to 22 miles an hour. They're almost galloping. I'm not quite there yet."

The sport of distance riding consists of four separate disciplines, with each offering a variety of distances to choose from. Scoring focuses on the well being of the horse which is required to pass a veterinary inspection before, at checkpoints during, and again at the finish of all competitions.

Riders follow marked trails (which include water troughs placed at intervals for the horse) choosing the speed best suited to the horse's conditioning.

Historically, competition tends to be against a personal best rather than against others producing camaraderie and mutual assistance unique in equestrian sports.

Klarner's highlight of 2012 was to surpass the 500-mile mark with her horse in competition and they did so during their first 50-mile event together. She said for every one mile of competition, 10 miles of practice is required and they'll probably move up to the elite level this year.

As for her Precise Ice participation, Klarner, a former president of the Georgetown Skating Club, will compete alongside daughter Laurie in Kamloops, B.C. next week at the Canadian Adult Figure Skating Championships in search of their second consecutive synchronized skating national title after winning last year in P.E.I. The team also claimed the Canadian crown in Ottawa three years ago.

Linda Klarner (bottom left) shows off some of her recent medals from her efforts with the Precise Ice precision skating team (top) and during the equestrian Ontario Competitive Trail Riding Association 2012 series in which she won five of six events.

Top/middle photos submitted  
Bottom photo by Eamonn Maher

## Tyke Raiders win Game 4 & championship

Locked in a tight rivalry with Milton all season, Georgetown's tyke #3 Raiders left little doubt about which team was superior when it came to the Tri-County Minor Hockey Association championship series.

The Raiders played their best game of the season in game four of the best-of-5 Tri-County final Monday night at the Alcott Arena, skating past the Winterhawks 4-0 to clinch the title three games to one.

Noah Capteloa staked Georgetown out to an early 2-0 lead on a pair of goals before Ross Brown and Elias Barlas provided some insurance in the victory, while netminders Jayden DeZeeuw and Landon Little shared the shutout honours.

Collecting assists were Logan Santori (2), Nathan Parkins, Arran Fraser, Natalia Tomas, Noah McCutcheon and Krozly Vassos.

The Raiders were also able to shut down Winterhawks' scoring machine David Barber when it mattered most.

Other members of the tyke #3 squad are: Captain Sydney Hood, Brett Yandean, Owen Burd, Zach VanDamme, Thomas Harney, Spencer Malloch, head coach Rob Burd, assistant coaches Aaron Brown and Glen Malloch, trainer Paul Santori, manager Diana Tomas.

See photo on page 19

## Georgetown sends five to OMHA U-16 camp

Georgetown is well represented on the list of invitees to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association's Under-16 Program of Excellence Selection Camp on Saturday, March 30 in Oakville.

Five local residents from the Halton Hurricanes' minor midget AAA team have been chosen amongst 50 OMHA players who'll attend the camp.

Goaltender Michael McNiven, defencemen Matt Mercer and Mitchell Kreis, along with forwards Josh Dickinson and Matthew

Kreis, were the minor midget Hurricanes asked to attend the selection camp, to be held at the Sixteen Mile Sports Complex.

Only the OHL Cup-champion Oakville Rangers (10) and the Whitby Wildcats (6) had more team members picked for the camp with 10. From the Oakville selec-

tion camp, two teams of 20 players will be selected to participate in the 2013 OHL Gold Cup in Kitchener from May 9-12.

It's also an opportunity for Ontario Hockey League general managers and scouts to watch players ahead of the Priority Selection set for Saturday, April 6.