

Gymnastics Club ready to challenge

By Paula Geniole
Special to HHTW

The Halton Hills Gymnastics Club has a lot to be proud of these days. It has recently moved into a new 8,500 square-foot facility on Armstrong Ave. in Georgetown (in the Westinghouse building next to Georgetown Terminal Warehouse). Movement into a facility of this size with its 22-foot ceiling is the culmination of the dream the club has had since its infancy.

The large space has allowed the club to enlarge and expand the number of the programs it offers. In particular, it has meant the club can offer separate boys programs for boys of all ages and levels of ability. Moving has resulted in a growth in membership and coaching staff. It has resulted in the club being able to train its gymnasts on more state-of-the-art apparatus, on a regulation size floor exercise mat, and using a vaulting pit and trampoline.

The club currently teaches programs to about 350 children from the Halton Hills and Brampton area, aged from 18-months to 20-years. Its target is to have over 500 members as it searches to produce its very own Nadias, Elfies, Olgas, Curtis's and Stellas.

Among its members are 36 hard-working and dedicated young women participating in the six levels of its Competitive Gymnastics Program (training for as

many as 19 hours per week).

These girls work constantly at the basic principles and complex routines they started with the day they walked into the gym, through to their highly choreographed routines developed by six-year Head Coach Paula Geniole.

Ten of the 12 female female gymnasts at the club's Competitive Provincial Level traveled to Burlington to the Burlington Girl's Gymnastics Club on the weekend of Dec. 3-5 to compete against approximately 100 gymnasts in the First Qualifier (of three) for spots on the Central Region team - the team which represents our area at the provincial championships. In addition to Burlington and ourselves, the Central Region includes clubs from Milton, Oakville, Hamilton, Guelph, Orangeville, Owen Sound, St. Catharines, and Niagara Falls.

The long hours of training paid off for five of the 10 competing at this meet. Four of the five achieving honors and bringing pride to our club were in the Novice 2 division. Ashley Johnson finished in a tie for first on Vault, 2nd on Bars, 5th in Floor Exercise and earned enough points to claim 1st All-Round.

Feisty Jennifer Robertson had stellar performances in three events. She tied Ashley for 1st on Vault, and took a 1st in Floor Exercise

and placed 2nd on the Beam. Her overall points standing, only a half point behind Ashley's total, was good enough to capture the third place ribbon.

Coming in eighth overall, but 1st on Bars was Daniela Soria. The fourth member with a strong showing was Katie McCormick. Katie's total placed her in 12th overall among Novice 2's and her best individual performance was an impressive fifth place finish on the Beam.

At the Junior 1 Level, our club's colors were represented by Julie Brown. Julie had two top five finishes. She captured the 2nd place ribbons in Floor Exercise and 3rd spot on Vault. She placed 12th in the All-Round in a tough field.

Not competing due to injuries were Jennifer Stocks and Kendra Jones. They and all other members of our Competitive Provincial team are setting their sites on the Second Qualifier to be held in Oakville at the Antoinettes Gymnastics Club on the weekend of Jan. 30. Scores and standings from two of three qualifying meets determine who earns their way on to the Central Region team.

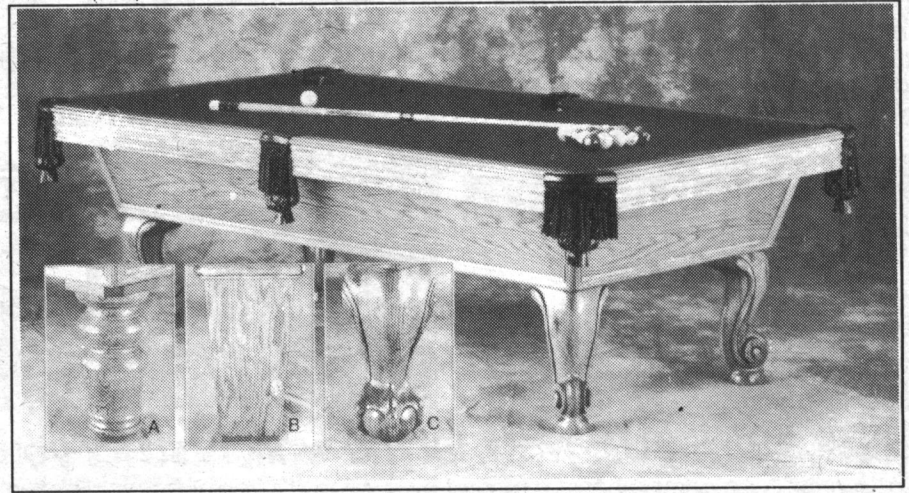
For more information related to the club, its programs or the performance of its gymnasts competing in Burlington at the First Qualifier, please call Paula Geniole at the Club—877-4330.

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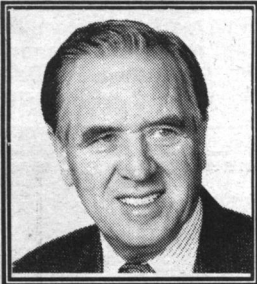
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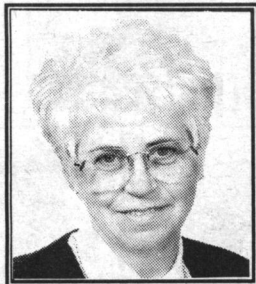


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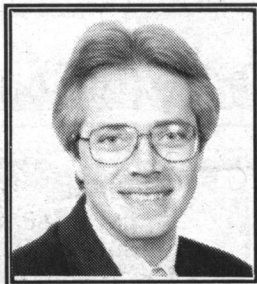
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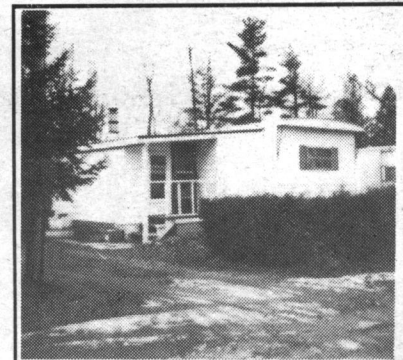
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