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# Sports & Leisure

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

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Erin Longworth, left, back row, and Julie Watson, right, front row, compete in the Canadian Synchronized Skating Championships where they won a silver medal in the junior division. Submitted photo

## Infiniti captures silver

Ice Infiniti put its best blades forward on both the national and international stage. The Streetsville-Meadowdale-based team, which includes Georgetown skaters Erin Longworth and Julie Watson, recently won a silver medal at the Canadian Synchronized Skating Championships in Montreal. They followed that up with a victory at a competition in Neuchatel, Switzerland.

Only Toronto's Black Ice, a long-time rival, prevented Ice Infiniti from capturing the national championship. Ice Infiniti's performance even had some judges dethroning the defending junior champs. Black Ice narrowly won the short program, getting five of the nine first-place ordinals.

"We had a really good skate, the best we've ever had," Longworth said. "I thought we might have beat them."

Black Ice widened the margin slightly in the long program, getting top marks from six of the nine judges.

"We were pretty close," Watson said. "It just comes down to what the judges are looking for."

Still, the silver medal was the best performance at nationals for the two local skaters. And with only one skater going overage

next season, the core of the team will be back to take another run at the national title.

The Canadian championships were not the end of the season for the team, though. Its performance at last year's nationals, where it finished third, had earned the team a trip to Switzerland for a competition.

For Longworth, 17, it was her first taste of competition outside North America while it was the second European trip for Watson, who competed in France in 1997. After taking some time to do some shopping and sightseeing, including a cable car ride into the Alps, the team got down to business.

Ice Infiniti came through with a strong long program to win the event, which drew teams from the United States, Sweden and the host country.

With a couple of national medals and an international competition to her credit, Watson is considering a change of teams next year.

"I might move up to senior," said the 16-year-old. "They're having world championships and possibly Olympics and I want to get a senior background before these events."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

## Halton Hills Gymnastics Club places seven on Central squad

The Halton Hills Gymnastics Club has landed seven members on the Central Region team for the provincial championship.

Two more club members earned alternate positions on the Central Region team at the third and final qualifying meet in Owen Sound.

Lisa Butler, who had already locked up a position on the Senior 2 team by winning the all-around gold at the previous two qualifiers, took the all-around silver. She earned a medal in three events, winning the floor exercises, placing second on the uneven bars and third on the balance beam.

Jenna Johnson's all-around silver earned her the second spot on the Senior 1 team. Johnson was first on bars and second on floor.

Kristen Clark won the floor event and was second on beam on her way to an all-around bronze. That earned her the second berth on the 10-11 Novice 1 team.

LaRhae Bucke took medals in three individual events and won the bronze medal in the Novice 2 division. Buck was second on bars and vault and was third on floor. She was the fourth qualifier for the Central Region team.

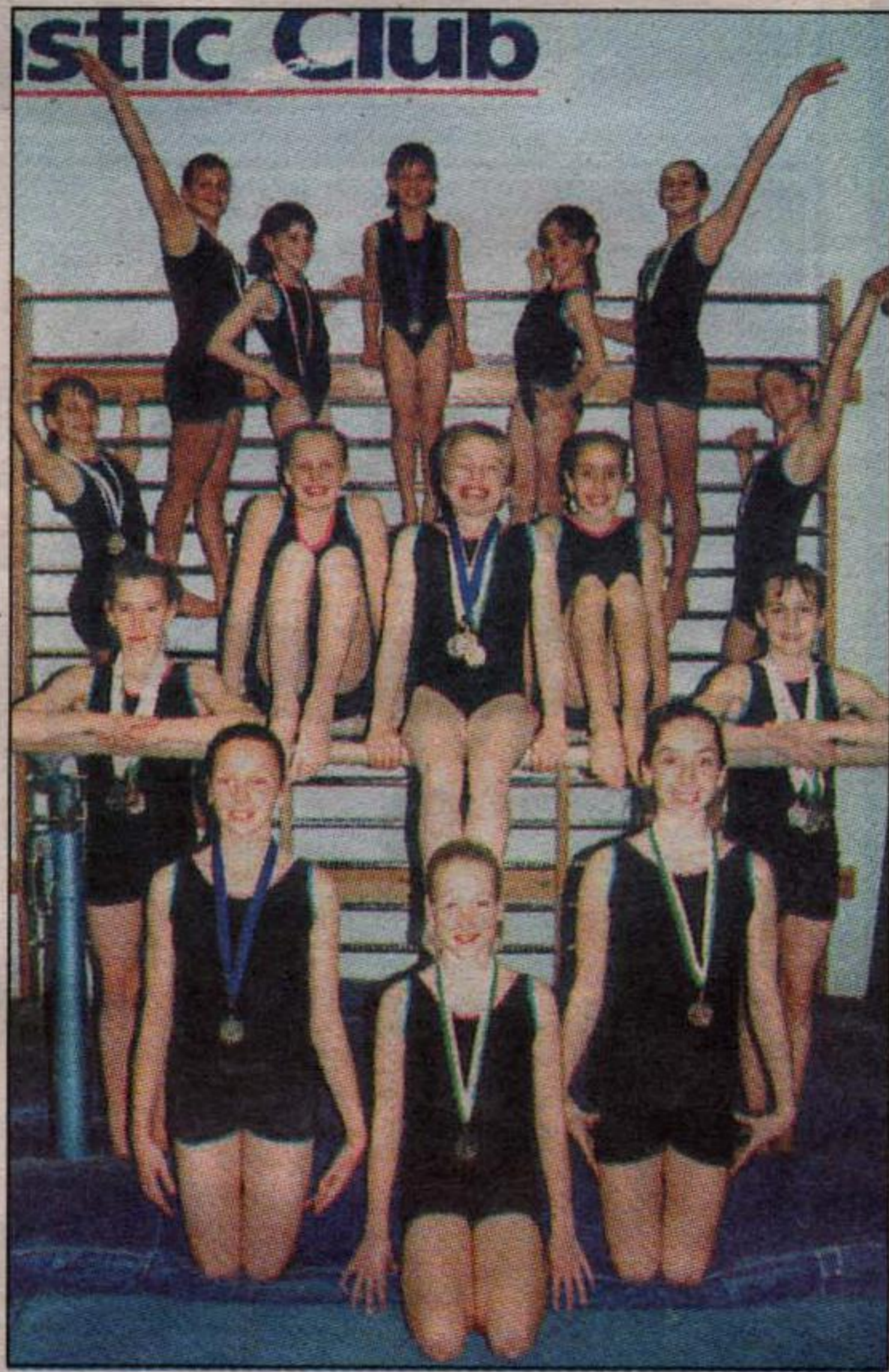
Holly Johnson won medals in each event to earn the all-around bronze medal. Johnson was second on floor and third on vault, bars and beam to secure a spot on the regional team.

Stephanie Palichuk will be going to her third straight provincial championship with her third straight top-six finish at a qualifier in the Pre-Junior Level 2 division. She was in the top-six of each event, including a fourth on floor.

Jen Lymburner rounded out the Halton Hills contingent. She wrapped up a place on the Pre-Novice Level 1 team with a fourth all-around finish, including a victory on floor. The first alternate for the team will be Megan McCrae, who placed seventh all-around, including a third-place finish on floor.

Brittney Douey will also be a first alternate after placing fifth all-around in the Pre-Junior Level 1 division.

Other top finishers at the qualifying meet were: Junior 1: Lisa Etchells (third on floor, sixth all-around); Valerie Noblet (first on floor, seventh all-around); Lindsay Nicholls (third on bars and floor, seventh all-around); Merritt Lymburner (second on vault, fourth on floor, ninth all-around).




The Halton Hills Gymnastics Club had seven members earn spots on the Central Region team at the third and final qualifier for the provincial championships in Owen Sound. Competing in the qualifier were: (front from left) Valerie Noblet, Brittany Douey, Lisa Etchells (middle, from left) LaRhae Bucke, Erin Smith, Kristen Clark, Stephanie Palichuk, Holly Johnson (back, from left) Jenna Johnson, Merritt Lymburner, Megan McCrae, Jennifer Lymburner, Kristen Southgate, Lindsay Nicholls and Lisa Butler. Submitted photo

## Roller hockey sign-up

The Halton Hills Roller Hockey League will be holding a late registration at Alcott Arena on Saturday, April 17 from 1-2 p.m.

The league will also be hosting a coaching clinic at the Halton Hills Police Station on Thursday, April 22 from 7-9 p.m. and will hold an equipment swap on Wednesday, April 28 from 7-9 p.m. at Memorial Arena.

Due to the growth of the novice and tyke divisions, these teams will now be playing Wednesday nights instead of Mondays. Games will start at 6:30 and 7:15 p.m.



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