

## INJURED WORKERS ASK FOR FAIRER SETTLEMENTS

by Ann W. Smith

The North Hastings Injured Workers Group met in the North Hastings High School Library at 7:30 on Monday June 5 with about 27 people present.

Chairman Dana Graham reported on meetings that he had attended, as a member of the Board of Directors, of the Hastings Prince Edward Legal Planning Board in Belleville.

The volume of cases is rising and they feel they cannot cope. They have elections in November. Dana wants Bancroft area people well represented.

Dana feared that there would be a big slash in benefits if the Conservatives or the Liberals win the election. [This was just before

the Ontario Provincial elections!]

Graham said that the New Democrats was the first Government to tackle the problems with the Workers Compensation Board. He encouraged all injured workers to write to the Royal Commission which is currently studying the W.C.B. The Royal Commission allows everyone to express their opinions and tell their experiences.

Dana felt that injured workers should be supportive of each other. Talking about their problems helps them through the frustrations of waiting for claims to be settled.

Dana shared his experiences since his injury in 1989. His claim went fairly smoothly but he was

cut off when the doctor was late sending in his report.

Some other injured workers at the meeting also talked about their experiences.

One who was 53 years old when injured was deemed to be too old and not to have enough educational background to retrain. He was given a pension and allowed to do what work he was capable of doing.

Dana Graham urged injured workers not to give up when their claims take 2 or 3 years to be approved. Keep after them until satisfied with the settlement offered.

As an example of the need to be persistent one man told the story of his 18 years of dealing with the

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## More Honours for Figure Skater

By Stewart Smith

Figure skating champion, Rachel Richard, has added more honours and another trophy to her 1994 - 1995 accomplishments.

On May 31, 1995, she received the Karen Westby Artistic Award at the Annual Awards Night of the Peterborough Figure Skating Club.

Karen Westby is a World champion skater. She still goes to the Peterborough Arena during practices to watch the skaters, and to select the winner of her annual award. She watches for, "Artistic skill, perseverance, love of the sport, natural ability, and dedication."

Rachel recalls having a bad day when Karen was at the Arena. Nothing seemed to be going right. But she



Rachel Richard holds the Karen Westby Artistic Award trophy which she was given this spring.

kept trying. Karen Westby remarks, "She kept getting up. She continued pushing and pushing. She just didn't give up."

Rachel also received the Appreciation Award of the Board of Directors, for her outstanding performance at the All Ontario competition.

The All Ontario Westby was held in Belleville on March 12 and 13. There Rachel placed a close 2nd - 1/2 point from 1st.

This was Rachel's last winter in the Test Stream of figure skating. Now she moves up, as has her sister, Renee, to the Competitive level.

They will be able to compete in Divisionals at the Competitive level in Eastern Ontario, with the winners going on to All Ontario, and then All Canadian competitions.

After a two week break, Rachel and Renee have both gone to Ottawa to take training with the Gloucester Figure Skating Club. One trainer will be Peter Dunfield, who has coached Olympic and World Champions Elizabeth Manley and Lu Chen.

Rachel is 15 years old, and the daughter of Jerry and Earla Richard, of Detlor, south of Bancroft.

## Sacred Concert in the Park

By Stewart Smith

"Now I belong to Jesus. Jesus belongs to me," The words, sung powerfully by Peter Stringer, deepened the mood of worship in the York River Park in Bancroft on Sunday afternoon, July 2.

About 100 or more people had gathered - or could wander in during the concert - to celebrate the "Sacred Music Concert in the Park," a Can-

ada Day tradition in Bancroft.

This year the concert was organized by Lynn Watson, Director of the special Sacred Music Concert choir. She explained that this choir had practised on Monday evenings, while the Community Choir, which she also directs, practised on Wednesdays.

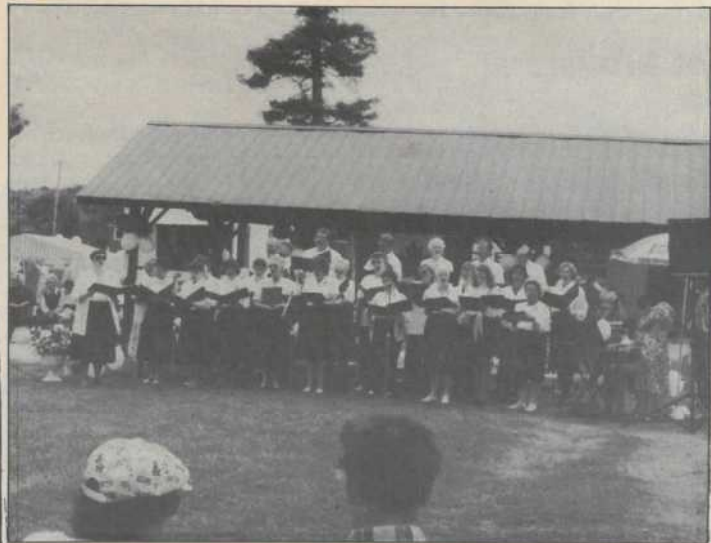
"Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound," the choir

sang. Then, "O Lord my God...How Great Thou Art."

A male quartet came and sang the Lord's Prayer. Quartet members

were:  
\*William Watson,  
\*Peter Stringer,  
\*Serge Tenthorey,  
\*and Barry Nelson.

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The Sacred Music Concert Choir, at the Sacred Concert in the Park on Sunday afternoon, July 2.



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