



DEBBIE LOUNDS, one of the new professionals at the Milton Figure Skating Club, gives some tips to Milton skater Sandra Tonelli. Debbie is a senior pro and is in her first year of teaching. She started skating with the Weston Figure Skating club and will also be teaching in Georgetown this winter.

# Scotch Block blacksmith shop served well over a century

The old blacksmith shop stands on 10 Sideroad in Esquering Township. It is now used as a garage and workshop by Bert Archer and his family. The late George H. Michie, an Associate Professor of York University, wrote much of his family history available today. We are fortunate to have his extensive background on the Scotch Block blacksmith shop.

## THE BLACKSMITH SHOP, SCOTCH BLOCK

By George H. Michie  
The Blacksmith Shop was first located in a frame building at the Fourth Line corner and operated by Hugh Macdonald. Soon after two acres was obtained from Thomas Barbour (who obtained the corner deed to Lot 11 and 12, Conc. 4 E in 1836), and another frame building used as a shop until it was destroyed by fire. The sturdy two foot thick stone shop with slate roof was then built. It was from the first the gathering place for farmers for many miles around. Horses were shod for road work, corked for winter ice conditions and wagons and other equipment were made or altered.

John McKenzie, a blacksmith from a shop south of Palermo on the Second Line at the present Queen Elizabeth Highway crossing, purchased the blacksmithy about the time of Confederation in 1867. David, John Thomas, James, Isabel (Mrs. Cook), Elsie (Mrs. Armstrong), Lizzie (Mrs. Reid) and Mary McKenzie were born or raised there in the large white frame house which still stands on the property. On the veranda which preceded the present one, and was almost identical to it, was a small room at the west side where the McKenzies kept the post

office before it moved to the Scotch Block site on 10 Sideroad at the CNR crossing west of the Third Line.

**Vivid memory**  
Thomas and James McKenzie occupied the property until the early 1930's. Both were blacksmiths and Jim also kept a number of stallions for use about Esquering until the late 1920's. Neighbors surviving still recall the scream of the stallions. Thomas McKenzie (Old Tom) died about 1933 aged about 75 years. His shop was a popular centre for discussing the news and waiting for jobs to be finished. Kenneth and George Michie often pumped the bellows to keep the coal glowing in the forge and watched as horseshoes and square nails were being made. The smell of horses' hooves being trimmed, the reek of coking coal smoke and the dusting of smoke cinders over the tools, harness, floor, walls and clothes, remain a vivid memory after 30 years. There was endless fascination as Tom twirled a piece of iron in the fire until it glowed red hot, hammered and bent it to shape, dipped it into the white flux, heated it again until satisfied, and he plunged it with a sharp hiss and plume of white steam into a small barrel of dust-covered black water.

The double doors of the shop opened to the southeast across from the farm of James Hume, and later George and Harold Michie. They were seldom closed during the long working day and provided a superb vantage point for watching the traffic go by. Harold Michie used to recall four and six brick from Milton Heights to build the Wilson residence at Lot 11 Conc. 7 west and pulling the threshing machines to the next farm. The steam engines could not pull their threshing machine from the Third to the Fourth Line because the iron tired vehicles cut down very deeply into the soft sand on the long hill by Lot 11 Conc. 4 west. The smithy did its bit to keep the threshing machines going. It also repaired the road scraper when the farmers went out to do their road work past their properties.

**Six cattle killed**  
Once when looking out of the shop's wide doors the sky darkened and became streaked with angry darts of light grey, hail as large as the gravel on the road began to pelt the earth and bounce up at the wide stone lintel at our feet. Soon sharp chains of lightning cut across the grey sky. Tom McKenzie and Alec Hume came to the door to watch with us, just as an ugly chain of flashing lightning jagged down to the right of Harold Michie's big barn on the opposite hill. At that instant six big beef cattle were struck down in the middle of the field south of the lane. They never knew what had hit them, and for years and years after we recalled the incident every time we passed their graves on the hill behind the row of big elms by the lane. Such was the talk in the blacksmith shop that such unknowable occurrences fitted into the pattern beyond man's understanding, and were commented on with shyness and awe.

Thomas Michie and his wife Jane Storey bought the house from the McKenzies in 1922 and lived there with their daughters Ellen (Mrs. Wilfrid McDonald) and Mary (Mrs. Jim McGibbon, 1912-1968) until they took back their farm on the Third Line late in 1924. During that time Tom Michie operated a beefing. A feature of the annual accounting

was the oyster supper given in celebration. Harold Michie and Wilfrid McDonald often vied for the honor of winning the prize for the most oysters eaten. The oysters were taken with lemon juice or escalloped or as is, and up to 120 were eaten by each. They were purchased by the barrel. The beefing butcher shop was situated behind the present small barn by the line fence.

Sandy McKenzie (who was born in Scotland but raised by

neth Michie, Gordon McDonald and John Bowman had gone off to war and the days of the threshing and woodcutting bees, corncutting and so on were at an end. So were the famous euchre parties which Tom McKenzie and so many of Scotch Block loved to attend.

Bert Archer bought the blacksmith property in 1946 and he and his wife brought up their son Ronnie Archer and his friend Johnny Barrow there. They were among the



BLACKSMITH SHOP on 10 Sideroad in Esquering is now used as a garage and workshop. Horses were shod for road work, corked for winter ice conditions and wagons and other equipment were made or altered when the shop operated early in the 19th century.

(Photo by J. Beaton)

his sister who was not much older, lived with her in the Guernsey Islands in the English Channel) came to Canada in 1932 or 1933, and helped out in the smithy, taking over when Old Tom died. He operated the shop, sometimes on a part-time basis until 1946, when he and his wife Pearl Smith and their children Keith and Nancy, bought the McBride farm on Five Sideroad on the Town Line. Sandy died very suddenly in 1952 just when his patient hard work had earned him the Harry Smith farm on the Second Line which he had purchased by then. Few men worked so industriously to acquire land in Scotch Block in the 20th century, though some equalled or surpassed Sandy's long labors (often in two jobs, one at the Acton Tannery and the other in the smithy) in the first pioneer days of the early 1800's.

End of an era  
The old blacksmith shop began to crumble after 1946 and farmers had to go to Stewartton for some smithing but soon sought out acetylene and arc welding when such refined methods were offered later by the Barnes business at Ashgrove. The days of conviviality and neighborliness in Scotch Block were at an end. Ken-

first to use a television set in the Block. They have restored the old stone shop, which dates back to the 1830's, for use as a garage and workshop. The west corner was falling away but has been rebuilt, a cement floor poured and since slates for patching



"Why Mr. Frost, when I tell people how much you've got stashed away, they just can't believe it!"

## Salco beaten

Ontario Pallet nipped the Kibridge based Salco Construction crew in North Burlington Football play over the weekend.

Pallet scored an unconverted touchdown early in the game and held on for the win.

Pallet and Salco are tied for top spot with three wins each in front of Canteen of Canada with two wins and winless Mount Royal.

Salco meets Canteen at General Brock School Oct. 20.



### LOWVILLE LEAGUE

Oct. 4  
Ladies' high single, Shirley Prince 299; ladies' high triple, Shirley Prince (206, 164, 299) 688; men's high single, Jack King (306); men's high triple, Jack King (306, 241, 285) 832.

Other top singles: Gord Harris (279), Don McLean (273), Arnold Clancy (244), Shirley Williams (241), Hazel Colling (236).

Other top triples: Gord Harris (710), Don McLean (690), Bob Wells (652), Bill DeForest (647), Arnold Clancy (629).

Jack King won 7 for 7, Bill DeForest 5 for 10, Marlene Morton 5 for 7, Bob Wells 4 for 9, Gord

Harris 3 for 5, Joan DeForest 2 for 9, Reg Smith 2 for 4, Harold Morton 0 for 5.

### WEDNESDAY NITERS

October 2  
Ladies' high single, Sandy Parsons 258; ladies' high triple, Sandy Parsons 692.

Other top singles: Sandy Parsons 232, Leoni Boughton 228, Leone Flarity 210, Terry Richardson 209, Kathy Robins 209.

Other top triples: Leone Flarity 567, Loris Laver 554, Leoni Boughton 550, Maryann Kenny 533, Bev Haringa 532.

Loene won 5 for 12, Gail 1 for 2, Mary Ann 2 for 5, Sheila 4 for 9, Lennie 3 for 7, Judy 1 for 2, Susan 4 for 10, Loris 4 for 9.

### EARLY BIRDS

Oct. 4  
Ladies' high single June Gould 259, Ladies' high triple, June Gould 738; men's high single, Ken Johnson 326; men's high triple, Warren Marling 784.

Other good singles, Frank Lendvay 295, Warren Marling 294. Other good triples, Jack Gould 696, Ray Waters 735.

Hilda Rigo won 2 for 8, Ginny Johnson 3 for 17, Vern Wilson 5 for 20, Reg Gray 4 for 13, Jack Boustie 19 for 14, Lynda Wilson 2 for 12, George Gilbert 4 for 13, Muriel Gray 3 for 15.

### CANADIAN METER GIRLS

Oct. 3  
Ladies' high single, Marg Cragg 275; ladies' high triple, Sheryl Linder 704.

Other good singles: Sheryl Linder 268, Joan DeForest 231, Jean Coulson 228, Muriel Boers 224, Pat Campbell 222.

Other good triples: Pat Campbell 636, Ruth Twiss 630, Marg Cragg 619, Pat Marshall 587, Della McPhail 587.

Glenna Rusk won 4 for 20, Pat Marshall won 7 for 17, Liz Lards 7 for 15, Ruth Twiss 2 for 14, Jeannette Paquette 3 for 14, Joan DeForest 5 for 13, Mary Heipel 0 for 9, Della McPhail 0 for 9.

### LADIES SPECIAL

October 1  
Ladies' high single Irene Gilbert 258; ladies' high triple, Dorothy Richardson (198, 234, 157) 589.

Other good singles, Eleanor Cooper 236, Audrey Mason 225, Sandra Darling 218, Hilda Rigo 216.

Other good triples, Eleanor Cooper 585, Hilda Rigo 584, Sandra Marling 571, Audrey Mason 567, Mary Kingdon's won 5 for 17, Bobbie Rowney's 5 for 16, Marion Marshall 3 for 12, Millie Thomas 2 for 11.

### CLUB 24

October 2  
Ladies' high single Mary Buckley 269; ladies' high triple, Mary Buckley 576.

Mary's team won 7 for 7, Betty's 5 for 9, Audrey's 2 for 9, Jean's 0 for 3.

### RATEPAYERS

Oct. 1  
Ladies' high single, Norma MacMurphy 255; ladies' high triple, Norma MacMurphy 619; men's high single, Dick Cain 297; men's high triple, Lloyd Tawse 686.

Other top singles: Roger Verwaacke 270, Lloyd Tawse 250, Neil Preston 261, Russ McHugh 246, Betty Hamilton 248.

Other top triples: Dick Cain 648, Len St. John 633, Opal Couture 614, Neil Preston 614, Russ McHugh 599.

Movers won 7 for 12, Ram Jets 7 for 9, Kool Kats 4 for 9, Six-Pack 3 for 8, The Go-Getters 5 for 7, The Strikers 0 for 5, The Old Folks 2 for 4, Rockie Rollers 0 for 2.

### 48 ALLEY ROCKERS

Sept. 30  
Ladies' High Single: Marlene Speck 291; Ladies' High triple, Marlene Speck 778.

Other Good Singles: Eileen McDougall 286, Grace Gervais 274, Ivy McClelland 257.

Other Good Triples: June Gould 727, Eileen McDougall 661, Grace Gervais 654.

Cayell won 7 for 18, Sharon 5 for 18, Marion 2 for 18, Marion 2 for 15, Grace 5 for 14, Joy 2 for 13, Jessie 5 for 13, V1 2 for 13, Eileen 0 for 8.

### MILTON COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

Oct. 3  
Ladies' high single, Asta Windmoller 249; ladies' high triple, Asta Windmoller 614; men's high single, Frank Pedulla 318; men's high triple, Pete Vandenhoevel 773.

Pete Vandenhoevel won 7 for 19, Joe Lamont 7 for 19, John Laurensen 7 for 16, John Sauve 0 for 10, Lucian Tielemans 3 for 9, Bill Laurensen 4 for 6, Carolyn Heaps 0 for 5, Gus Tielemans 0 for 0.



## Game & Fish News

by arn coulson

The Cohoe are running! We hope that becomes a household phrase in the near future... the same as the smelts are running, suckers are running and rainbow are running.

The once dirty, polluted Credit River is producing Cohoe salmon up to 15 ponds. Just a word of warning before you grab your fishing pole and head out — space is limited in places where the big fish are being caught — especially on the weekend. If you're a shift worker, go during the week.

Henry Neaves of Campbellville was down during the week and caught some lovely fish. Henry is an ardent fisherman and gets time off his work as manager of the Jockey Club, he invariably grabs a fishing pole or gun and takes to the field.

The rainbow trout are also on their annual fall run in the Georgian Bay area and we expect word soon from rainbow fishermen Jim Smith, Don Kearney, Tom Tegous and Jack Pearson. The big race is on for the largest rainbow trout trophy and we think there will be some wet boys before the cold weather forces them to stop fishing.

We have not heard from many duck hunters yet but by all reports there is an abundance of ducks this year. Bruce Coulson, Gord Tuck, Ron Marshall and Arn Coulson got several beautiful mallards opening morning. They've gone into the freezer for our wildlife dinner. Don Kearney, Lorne Lyons and Don Marshall got one for the freezer. Steve Keane and Jim Marshall got some nice ducks, also.

Every year about this time hunters feel the urge to blow the dust out of their favorite rifle. They venture out to the bush, take a look around and then let fly.

Fellows, please don't do this. It causes aggravation between residents and thoughtless hunters. There are too many people in the bush enjoying the beautiful fall weather and they have a perfect right to be there.

The Halton Sportsmen's Club has a rifle range where you may sight in your rifle any Saturday afternoon.

Jack Watson caught two Cohoe weighing seven and a

**BONANZA HOCKEY EQUIPMENT SALE**  
STARTS NEXT WEEK AT BROWNIE'S SPORTS  
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