

# Viscontis' Gold Ice team takes bronze at nationals

## Sisters help Brampton club move up four spots from '01

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

*The Champion*

There was no coming home empty-handed this time around.

Determined to rebound from last year's disappointing seventh-place finish at the junior synchronized skating nationals, the Brampton Gold Ice club — which includes Milton sisters Alicia and Melissa Visconti — fortified its collective efforts earlier this month in Kitchener.

And in doing so, the 20-member unit — in just their third year of existence — jumped up four spots to capture bronze.

Said 15-year-old Alicia, "I never cried so hard in my life. It was just amazing."

The Viscontis' Gold Ice contingent beat out eight teams, several of which are much more established, to reach the podium.

They missed the silver — which would have earned them a trip to worlds — by only a few points.

Quebec's Les Supremes took second-place honours while securing the gold was Burlington Ice Image.

Brampton was a model of consistency during the two-day national showcase, grabbing third spot for their short program and then matching that placing with their lengthier routine.

"I think we were more focused this year," said 17-

year-old Melissa. "We just performed for ourselves and didn't worry about medals. We skated from our hearts and just tried to do the best we could. That's how we approached every competition this season."

Their philosophy certainly met with favourable results.

Gold Ice reached the podium in five of six events and struck gold three times — including at the Tri State International last month in Michigan, where the girls delivered near-flawless execution in their final tune-up to nationals.

Remarked Alicia, "There were a lot of new girls this year, but we really came together as a team."

That cohesion, she noted, had a lot to do with newly-appointed coaches Jodie Jones and Stephanie Klein — who helped skipper Wendy Degraaf implement a whole new routine that features more challenging open blocks, in which skaters cross through one another without using their arms.

"The new coaches really helped," added Melissa.

Brampton's medal-winning performance affords the team an international assignment for next season — likely to a competition in Europe.

In the meantime, the girls will close out this season with a few exhibition performances later this month, including one at the Air Canada Centre during intermission at an NHL oldtimer's game on Easter Sunday.

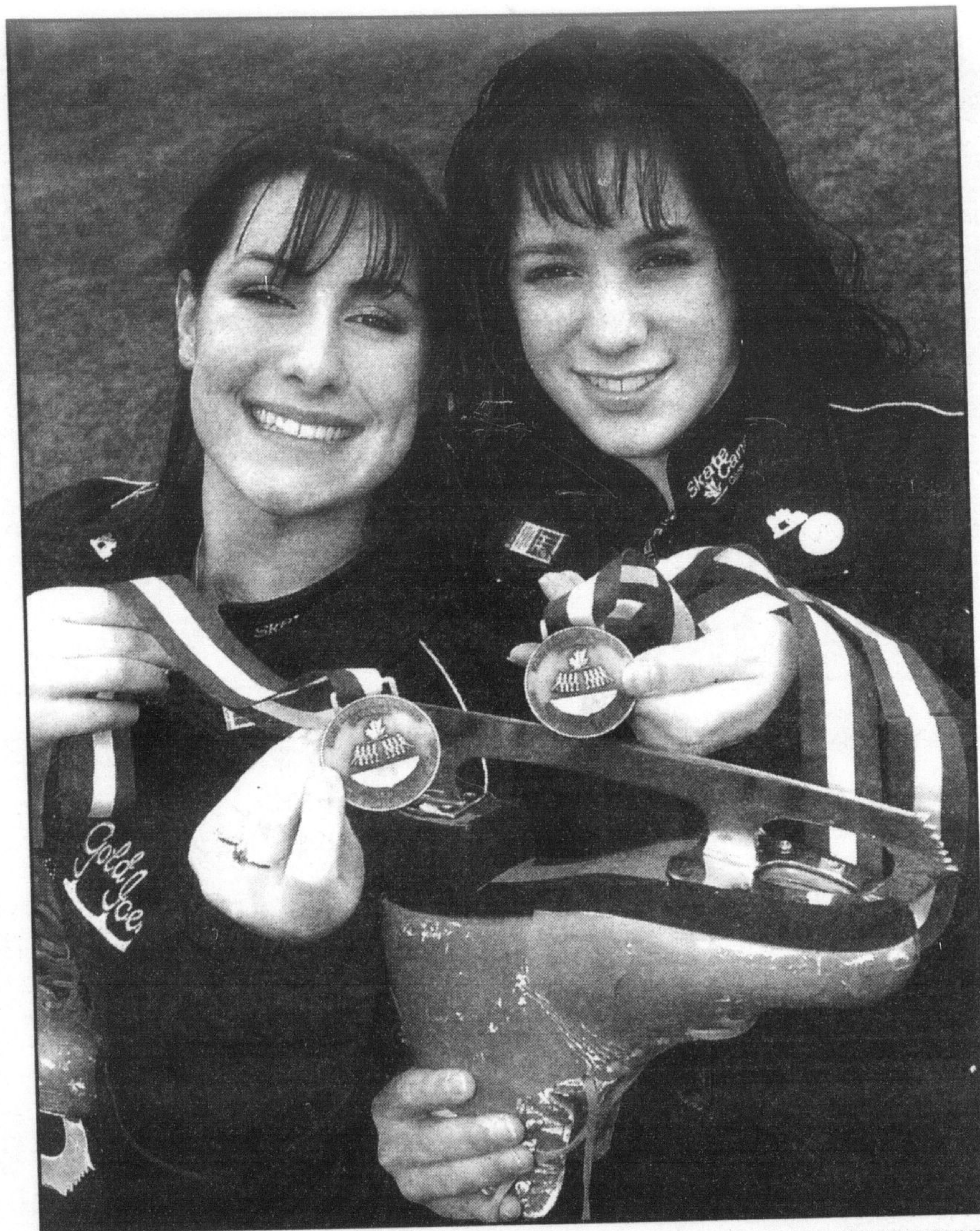


Photo by GRAHAM PAINÉ

Alicia (left) and Melissa Visconti proudly display the national bronze medals they won recently with Brampton Gold Ice.

## 'AA' atoms are still unbeaten

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

*The Champion*

Tri County finals play is a huge step closer to fruition now for the major atom AA Winterhawks.

The Wallace Pontiac Buick-sponsored team bolstered their hopes for a championship berth with a well-rounded 3-1 decision over Oakville Sunday evening at Memorial Arena.

A spirited defensive effort and two goals from Mark Thomson fueled the victory — which lifted Milton's Tri County playoff record to 5-0-2.

Overall, Taylor Prestidge had one of his easier games between the pipes — facing less than a dozen shots — but the crafty netminder did make a huge butterfly save early in the middle stanza to persevere the local lads' slim lead.

Oakville finally managed to beat him in the final six minutes of play, creating a partial screen on a well-placed point shot.

The Winterhawks scored once in each period to secure the win. Thomson made a nifty move past a vis-

iting defender for the initial deposit and converted a short-range rebound for goal number three, while notching the game winner on an odd-man rush was dependable sniper Scott Stover.

Tyler Lafontaine assisted on both of Thomson's goals while leading a highly impressive blueline unit was Jeremy Price.

Milton delivered a perfect special-teams campaign Sunday, killing off all three penalties and scoring on its only powerplay.

Two nights earlier against Flamborough, the Winterhawks had a last-minute goal waved off that would have allowed them to squeak out the win. Instead, they had to settle for a 1-1 stalemate.

Brayden Abraham and Brian Hunter set up Kyle Johnson for the lone tally.

Prestidge was rock solid in the cage.

Milton travels to Guelph tomorrow night and close out round-robin play at home against Ancaster Sunday afternoon.



### Milton Youth Soccer Club



Will be holding its Final Registration on  
Saturday March 16, 2002

from 12 pm to 4 pm  
at the Milton Mall

*Space is limited*

Spots will be filled on a first come first serve basis.  
(No early birds please)

Players are to be born between 1983 to 1997  
Birth certificate required for first time players.

**Milton Youth Soccer Club is in need of coaches  
for this upcoming season.**

It only takes 2 hours a week.  
The challenge and rewards are priceless  
Whether you have coached before or  
are new to soccer we will be there to help.

For more information call  
Martin Warner at 905 878-5698

# Milton Magic

### Notice of Liquor Licence Application



The following establishment has applied to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for a liquor licence under the Liquor Licence Act:

#### Application for a Sale Licence

**Steel's Grill & Pub**  
(to be known as: Stecchino's Italian Eatery)  
500 Steeles Avenue East,  
Milton (including outdoor area)

Any resident of the municipality may make a written submission as to whether the issuance of the licence is in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents. Submissions must be received no later than **April 13, 2002**. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If a petition is submitted to the Commission, please identify the designated contact person.

#### Note:

The AGCO gives the applicant details of any objections.

Submissions to be sent to:  
Licensing and Registration Department  
Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario  
20 Dundas St. W., 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 2N6  
Fax: 416-326-5555  
E-mail: [licensing@agco.on.ca](mailto:licensing@agco.on.ca)

## Historic race runs March 24

There's still time left to sign up for the annual 'Around the Bay' road race, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 24 in Hamilton.

'Around the Bay' is one of the oldest running events anywhere in North America — enjoying a 108-year history. Race memorabilia dating back to the turn of the century will be on display and available for perusal by all those who sign up at The Running Company, 118 Thomas St., in Oakville.

Registration for the event can be done in person or by calling The Running Company's Greg McKinnon at (905) 815-1952. Race entries will be accepted up until March 23.

The Running Company also hosts a number of clinics for both beginner and advanced runners.