

SPORTS

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

BALANCING ACT: Athena Zorzi competes in the Junior Bronze B Freeskate during the Milton Skating Club's year-end club competition Sunday at Milton Sports Centre. She placed fourth in the event and finished second in Junior Silver Dance. For related photos of the meet, see page A23.

Duo punctuates year with provincial silver

Recent Ontario championship play was met with a silver lining for a pair of Miltonians.

Both 'AA' peewee left winger Alyson Cochrane and 'BB' bantam defenceman Kaylee Kearns brought home silver medals on the same weekend, with the Burlington Barracudas and Guelph Thunder respectively.

Securing provincial hardware is hardly new for 12-year-old Cochrane, who claimed silver for a second straight year with Burlington after back-to-back golds. The Barracudas came awfully close to winning it all this time around in Brampton, losing to the London Devilettes by the narrowest of margins in the finals.

They'd cut a 2-0 London lead in half midway through the third period, but drew no closer in another heartbreaking defeat to their season-long nemesis.

Favoured to claim a medal after a successful season that included a North Metro League title win, the Barracudas went unbeaten on the way to the finals with five wins and a tie — clearing the last hurdle to championship play with a 3-2 overtime triumph over Bluewater.

Play ball!

Looking to continue climbing the provincial senior baseball ranks, the Red Sox begin 2007 play tomorrow, with their annual double-header at Brian Best Park.

Milton will be staying up at the 'A' level this season — jumping up to it just last year — and appears to have another fundamentally-solid squad.

For a detailed preview of the '07 Red Sox, see page A22.

Their run to the title showdown was due in no small part to a spirited two-way performance from their resident Miltonian, who despite moving up to the forward ranks this year continued to make a significant contribution to the defensive side of things.

A two-goal showing in a round-robin win over Cumberland, however, did offer further evidence that the change in position wasn't such a bad move.

Where Cochrane is a perennial provincial medalist, this spring's silver was the first ever at the Ontario championships for 14-year-old Kearns — a graduate of the Halton Hills Twisters who helped anchor an effectively-stinging blueline unit that frustrated opposing snipers all season long.

That suffocating defence — factoring heavily in medal-winning efforts at three tournaments this season — was in

topnotch form for the provincials in Etobicoke.

But that wasn't quite enough when gold was on the line, as the Thunder were also eclipsed 2-1 — in their case by Ottawa Valley.

Guelph evened things up less than a minute after giving up the initial goal, but was scored on again and just didn't have another equalizer in its offensive well.

The Thunder surrendered a measly three goals en route to the championship — two of them in an initial 2-0 loss to the eventual golden girls. With no shortage of grit and sharp positional play offered by Kearns, Guelph managed three 1-0 wins before squeaking by Windsor 2-1 in the semifinals.

The Milton defenceman would also add a pair of assists to the Thunder's silver-medal showing.

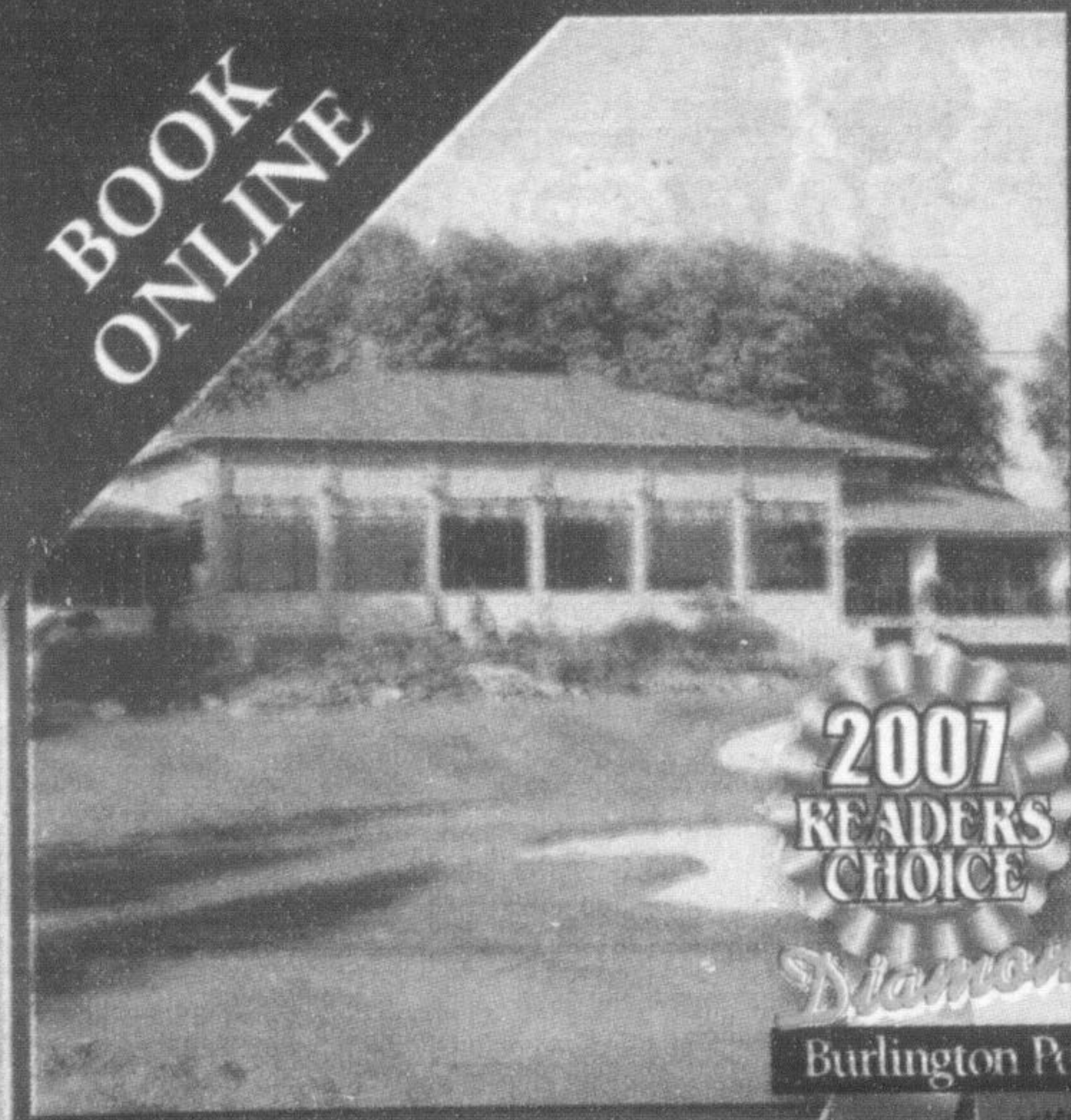


Alyson Cochrane



Kaylee Kearns

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