

# Mary Kay Orser-off to Ice Follies

by Sue Charlebois

As young people grow up many dreams fill their heads with ideas of what they want to be and things they want to do.

For many these dreams do come true leaving a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment.

For one 19-year-old resident of Penetanguishene something is about to happen that could open many doors to her dreams being fulfilled.

"I think I always had the hope but I never thought it would happen to me."

Mary Kay Orser, who got her training at the Mariposa Skating School of Training, Orillia, has been chosen to work with the Ice Follies.

Sister of Brian Orser, Internationally known skater, Mary Kay will leave on July 12 when she will go into 10 weeks of training for the shows she will perform in during her "skating frolics" with the Ice Follies.

In January Mary Kay along with 70 other girls tried out in Toronto to see who would be the lucky ones.

"I had to prove myself over American girls," said Mary Kay.

Out of these 70 girls only Mary Kay and one other were chosen.

Mary Kay has a two-year agreement with the Follies and has signed a one-year contract.

#### Contract

The six-page contract according to Mary Kay was "pretty strict."

The thought of having to lose 20 pounds was one thing she said that gave her doubts.

However, the 19-year-old skater feels "I've got to make myself a better person." "I think it's going to change my entire outlook on life."

Being away from home for one year will take some getting used to as Mary Kay ventures off for the first time. She says that she will miss her family very much but will always keep in touch. "I'm looking forward

to the travelling, but I'm not looking forward to being away from my family and job," says the avid skater who works for the Penetang Bottling Company.

However, Mary Kay, torn between home and a job full of experience, signed the contract that would take her travelling and teach her many things, knowing that she would not be gone forever.

And travelling she will do. The second stop for Mary Kay will be in the Bahamas where she will stay a glorious 10 days.

But everything will



Mary Kay Orser

not be fun and games for the show must go on.

After 10 weeks of training in the "shows" Mary Kay along with about 40 other skaters will rehearse every day and do one show nightly for 10 months with three shows a day on weekends.

Depending on how well things go and how she likes it, Mary Kay says she has not yet decided whether she will stay for the second year.

Mary Kay who has lived in the Midland-Penetang area for five years has three brothers and one sister who have all skated at one time or another with her and Brian the only ones to "stick it out."

Mary Kay herself began skating 10 years ago, five of which were spent in training.

#### Skater

The enthusiastic skater has won many awards to show for all her efforts and hours of

hard work.

In 1977 she represented Ontario in the Ontario Winter Games, she has been in many competitions, she also won the Huronia Games for three consecutive years, and for two years she won the South Georgian Bay Invitational. In 1975 Mary Kay was awarded with the highest award in skate dancing. While working at the Penetang Bottling Company, a job she will soon have to leave much to her regret, Mary Kay also taught skating at night for two years in Oro and Wasaga Beach four nights a week.

Mary Kay feels that working with the Ice Follies will definitely improve her teaching.

"The thing I want to do when I come back," she said, "is to be a choreographer."

When asked if she would some day like to open her own school of skating, she replied, "I think the chances of my opening up my own school are low." "The opportunity is not in the area."

Involving a lot of hard work, Mary Kay says the hardest time during

her skating has been in high school. She said the students couldn't figure out why she would be up at 5 a.m. skating, go to school and then return to the arena for more skating.

"When all the kids were out I was out skating."

Hard work indeed, "but it has all paid off," she said.

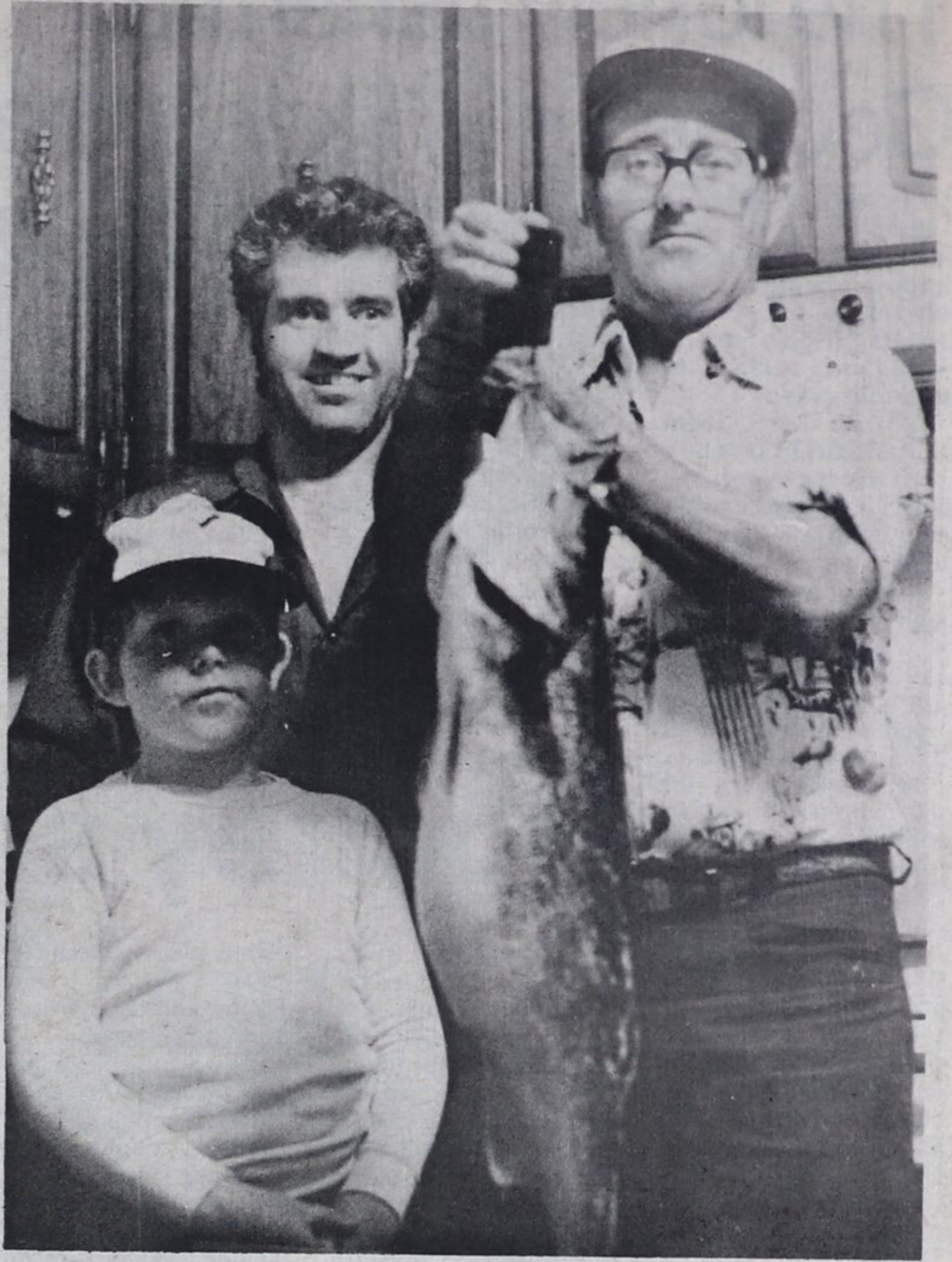
Having to go to the arena at 5 in the morning, Mary Kay says she owes a lot of thanks to Ron Marchildon, who works at the Penetang arena, who used to get up early every morning to let her in the doors.

Also, "There's no way I would be doing this if it wasn't for my coach Tom Harrison of Orillia."

With a brother who is also a well-known skater, Mary Kay says there has never been any competition between them.

"I think it's because he's a guy and I'm a girl." "I really look up to him, he's helped me a lot. We try to help each other."

And now for the last note: Introducing Mary Kay Orser from Canada.

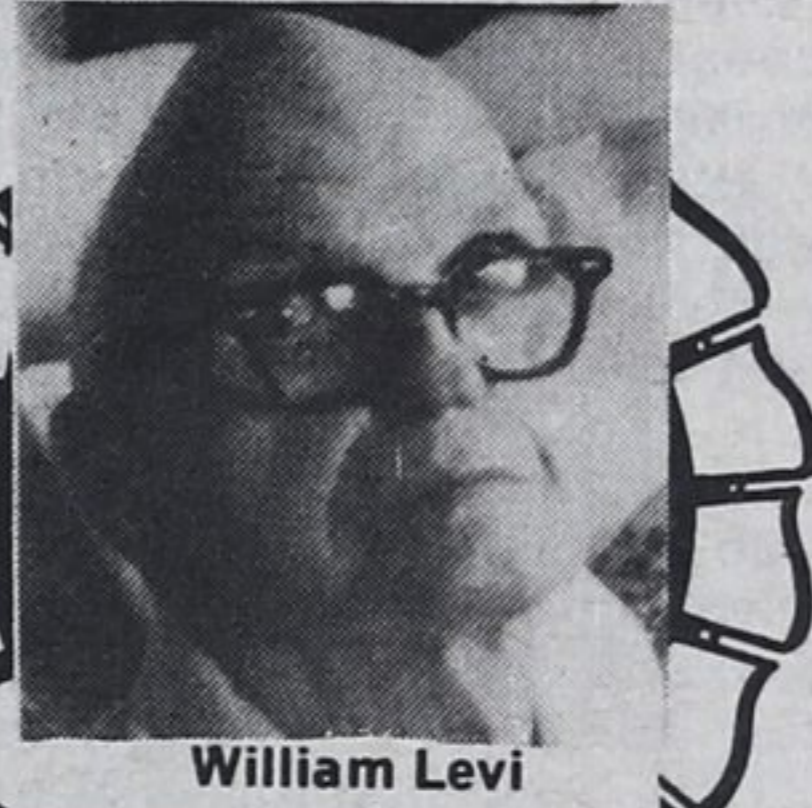


## Big catch

Claude Savage, summer resident of Victoria Harbour holds up his prize catch. This 12 pound Pickeral was caught in Sturgeon Bay with the help

Doug Norris (left) and son Paul, both of Victoria Harbour. Just for the record the big guy in the middle was caught with only a worm.

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Ten \$100,000 bonus numbers were also drawn to mark Wintario's fifth birthday. These are: 4682540, 6571000, 1763342, 3968003, 1798637, 6263764, 1742238, 4999283, 2607402, 7998105.

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## Limestone Islands form newest provincial park

Two major islands in Georgian Bay have been designated Ontario's 131st provincial park and 13th nature reserve, Natural Resources Minister James Auld announced today.

The new 450-hectare (1,112 acre) park, to be known as Limestone Islands Nature Reserve, is composed of North Limestone Island, South Limestone Island and Wallace Rocks. It is situated 13 kilometres off Carling Township in Parry Sound District.

"The islands contain the most productive and stable Caspian tern colony in the Great

Lakes Region. They also harbour colonies of gulls, herons and cormorants," Mr. Auld said.

"In the past, human influence has resulted in the removal of fossils and the virtual destruction of the cormorant rookery. The establishment of the park as a nature reserve gives my Ministry full authority to control activities which might endanger the fragile resources there," he added.

Also included on South Limestone Island are pits believed to be the remnants of a Huron Indian habitation.