

23% Boys Surprises New King Figure Skating Club

By FRED SIMPSON
It would be definitely an understatement to say that Joy Larsen started from scratch when she decided to form the now-flourishing few months old King City Figure Skating Club.

"You could say we started without any real plans at all," she was saying the other day at her place of business which is Color Contrast in King City. She's an interior designer by profession but readily admits that her job as president of the new club is keeping her almost as busy.

"The idea came about when the new arena opened in September," she said. "Someone called me up and suggested that it might be nice to start a club. My experience with figure skating clubs began and ended with the fact that I have two daughters who belong to the Aurora Club. In other words my experience was practically nil."

"This didn't really bother her,

it didn't even stop her. She jumped right into the swim of things by holding a registration day to test the interest.

"The surprise came on registration day when 85 youngsters showed up to pay their dues. There were with 85 members and actually no club. Just me."

That's when the work began. What to do now?
"Another surprising thing was the turnout of young boys who wanted to figure skate," she said. "Of those who registered, 23 percent were boys."

"We also found that the majority of our turnout were youngsters between the ages of 10 and 14 who had really never figure skated before. They were entirely green. You might say that applied to myself also."

That's when the work began. "I visited other clubs to see how they operate and in general started to find out about skating from the ground up. Here we are today."

Today the club is 150-members strong and is even attracting the mothers of this small community.

"Everyone just seems to be really enthusiastic about the whole thing," she said. "Several mothers suggested we form a section for the adults so that the parents could get in some skating themselves."

Now the club has 23 adult skaters, mostly mothers, who take off the apron long enough to do some fancy figure eights at the arena during the afternoons.

They aren't the most graceful, yet, but give them a few months.

An indication of the disparity in the skating abilities of the mom's are the three separate groups they are divided into: "Shakey", "Not So Shakey", and "Balanced". One lesson per group is provided each week.

"We've even had some dads come out," she said.
A club is only as successful

as its instructors and the King one has been fortunate in this department also.

Mrs. Larsen contacted an acquaintance of hers which turned out to be Mrs. Evelyn Snell of Aurora who is a qualified instructor. She has now been joined by Miss Bonny MacDonald.

Registration fee for members is \$35 which money goes toward the cost of ice-time at the arena (the club gets a reduced rate because it's a member of the community) and to pay the instructors.

"I'd like to emphasize," said Mrs. Larsen, "that the charge is a minimum one in order to enable us to operate. We are a non-profit organization all the way. In fact, we're \$1,200 in the hole as of the moment." They plan fund raising drives to raise additional monies.

Mrs. Larsen also designed the club uniforms which are a forest green and gold and are adapted to the colors of the King City Secondary School and the

minor hockey teams.

Since the majority of the youngsters have not had any formal figure skating lessons it was decided to provide one 15 minute group lesson and three stroking sessions per week with the membership divided into junior and intermediate sections. Children may join the club from five years and up.

"What we're really trying to do," she said, "is do our part in developing a community interest around the arena. I think it's obvious that there was a need for a skating club to fill a vacuum in the community. I'm very happy the way it's working out."


The current executive are as follows —
President Larsen, Vice-President Marianne Clairmont, Secretary Carol Newton, Treasurer Andrea Stemmler, Social Raymond Woodend, Membership Ian Hutchins, Publicity Helen McArthur, Test Marg Burt, Music Sally Upton and Ice Louise Sanelli.

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WARD 1

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Legion Reports

Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion
By Chris Ratchford — 884-5260

Fuddle Duddles End Ball Season With Closing Dance

This past week has been full of woe. Drowning by day and freezing by night. People have been having more than their share of aches and pains. The flu bug has been having a field day. He even had the nerve to tackle the matron of Bedlam Abbey and had her snarling at the inmates more than usual. Woe is us.

Despite the bad weather and other ills, ye olde Legion has been a hive of activity. Whenever two or more members get together, you can bet your life that there will be a wild game of shuffleboard under way before you can blink. The same goes for darts. You pays your penny and takes your choice when it comes to which games to watch. Then before you know it, you are involved. What fun. Doesn't matter whether you win or lose — it is just getting involved that counts. Some nights we have a treat. We sit back and watch a young lad come in and shoot a game of darts. What a pleasure.

Young Ian comes in for a visit — spies the dart boards and here we go again. We don't believe that there was any other spot on the board except the "bull". He hit it so often that it was a treat when he hit another part of the board. He sure found some other keen players who tried to beat him. Sure he hopes to join our club; just think of all those trophies!

Friday night came around and we're all joining in the fun of our weekly social night. The dart crowd from Bolton came over for an evening of darts. The shuffleboards were making it a heavy evening while in the ladies' lounge there was plenty of good company, conversation and dancing. As is usual we had our weekly mystery quest.

This time round Stan McComb was the lucky guy. This will sure set off the fishing trip he has planned with George Simms. Congratulations to you Stan. When you come back from that trip be sure to bring back some big ones. Don't let them all get away.

Speaking of George Simms; as we were a wee while ago, we wish to extend our very sincere congratulations for his receiving a diamond ring from Labatts for twenty-five years' faithful service.

Did we mention that for the past week there has been talk of what the Fuddle Duddles were going to do on November 25. This was their dance to officially close the 1972 baseball season. Held in the Legion Hall, the place was packed. These lads may not have won many games during the year but they sure won a lot of friends. They have big plans for the future with regard to baseball and other activities. They started off on the right foot this time; the group that provided the dance music were The New Review. Just great! Keep up the good work and you will all reach your goal you Fuddlers. Will try to give you more about this bash next week.

Mixed Bowling Dance, Legion Hall, December 9. Tickets at the door \$1.50 per person.

Sure hope you will join us for our New Year's Eve Dance.

Got to sign off now — guess we are in for some trouble. Just heard the "Matron" sounding off. We're heading for the hills.

ELGIN MILLS - JEFFERSON

CORRESPONDENT: CAROLINE LOMAS
Telephone 884-3000

Church News

Sunday service at St. John's Anglican Church will be the Litany. At 8 pm there will be a confirmation class. Last Sunday Holy Communion was celebrated at the morning service and the anthem was "A Wonderful Love".

The flowers on the communion table were placed there by Liz Flood as a tribute to Rev. Gerald Gregson, known and loved across Canada and England. He served in this parish for a summer in the 1960's.

There will be a sale of preserves Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm in the upper room. Baking, candy, pickles, preserves, jams and jellies will be featured. Proceeds go toward the church's 125th anniversary celebrations.

The Spiritual Life Fellowship met November 27 at 8 pm at St. John's.

The 125th anniversary committee and the advisory board met in the rectory and the new recreation room was dedicated.

The St. John's Young People will meet Friday evening at St. Mark's Chapel.

The men of St. John's played hockey at the Bond Lake Arena Monday from 11 to midnight. Next Monday they will play broom ball.

Community News

Saturday, December 2, "The Villa" will be holding a bazaar from 2 to 4 pm. Items made by the residents will be on sale. Sandwiches, cookies, tea and coffee will also be sold.

The 1st Jefferson Scout Troop went on a cookout November 25 to a 12 acre bush at High Oak Ranch Ltd., Uxbridge. This area has been made available to the Scouts as a troop camp and many more outings are anticipated. A good time was had by all and thanks go to the owner, Franz Henke.

Saturday, November 25, 1st Jefferson Cubs held a bazaar of baked goods and Christmas items made by the boys.

The 1st Jefferson Brownies recently enjoyed an outing to see the Ice Capades.

Last week the Brownies had an enrolment night and Diana Dannenfeldt joined the pack.

A happy birthday is wished for Cynthia Aukema who celebrates her eighth November 30.

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DANCE

MIXED BOWLING LEAGUE

Saturday, December 9
Branch 375 Legion Hall
YONGE STREET NORTH

Tickets \$1.50 each at the door
Disc Jockey Buffet



1972 TAXES NOTICE

TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM:

Under the new Ontario Property Tax Credit Plan, residential and farm Property taxes levied and due in 1972 must be paid by December 31, 1972.

The payment of these municipal taxes will enable you to receive the credit provided under the Ontario plan on your 1972 income tax return.

For detailed information on this benefit, will you please refer to the notices forwarded with your 1972 tax bill.

If you have not yet received your 1972 tax bill will you please notify us at 8911 Don Mills Road, Markham, Ontario, Telephone 297-1900.

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM
E. A. BARTON - Treasurer

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