



First brave steps

Judy Beattie, 4, is guided out onto the Thornhill Community Centre ice surface by her mother, Helen. If Judy takes to

skating, she will have the chance to benefit from professional instruction.



It tastes good too

Many children get their first thrill, their first spill, in short

their first taste of the ice, thanks to Thornhill Figure Skating.

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Spiral with a smile

Cindy Hirlehey, 11, demonstrates a spiral. She is a resident of Porterfield Crescent.

Club skates to success

THORNHILL — "If we didn't get into the new community Centre right away, there wouldn't have been ice time available," says President Karen Gammage.

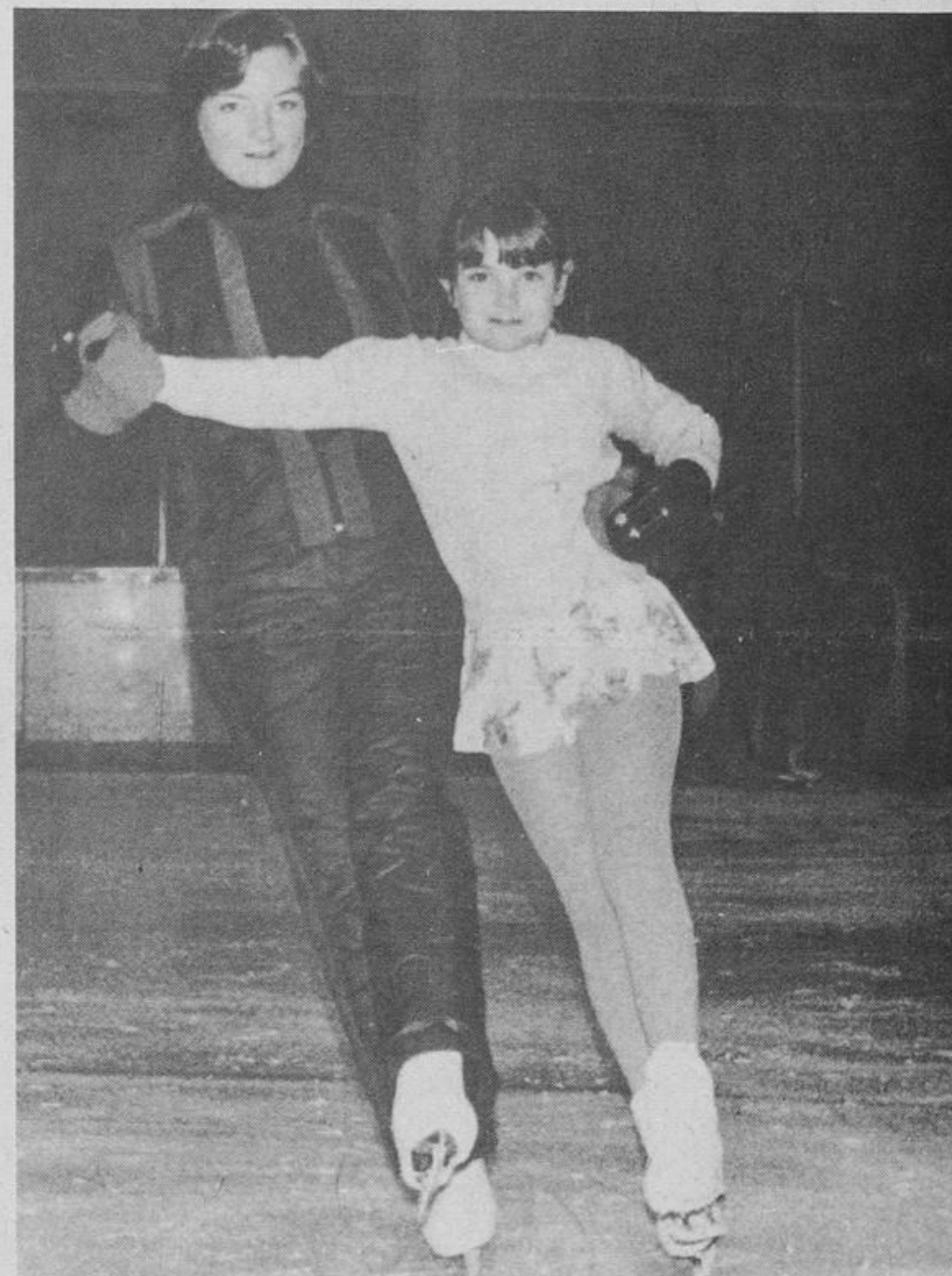
But the organizers of Thornhill's young Figure Skating Club did make their bid for ice time early, and are glad they did.

This year's membership of 450, after only two years in operation, is clear proof of the interest in figure skating among Thornhill residents.

Like other figure skating clubs in the area, the Thornhill club is staffed entirely by volunteers, with only the professional instructors receiving salaries. Seventy to eighty mothers contribute their time to help the club go. While other clubs hold annual Ice Carnivals, however, the still-young Thornhill group have decided to opt for bi-annual displays, concentrating instead on inter-club competitions.

As well, President Gammage reports the club has been granted permission to entertain crowds between periods at Thornhill Thunderbird hockey games.

"This will give the children some incentive towards having a good solo", says Gammage.

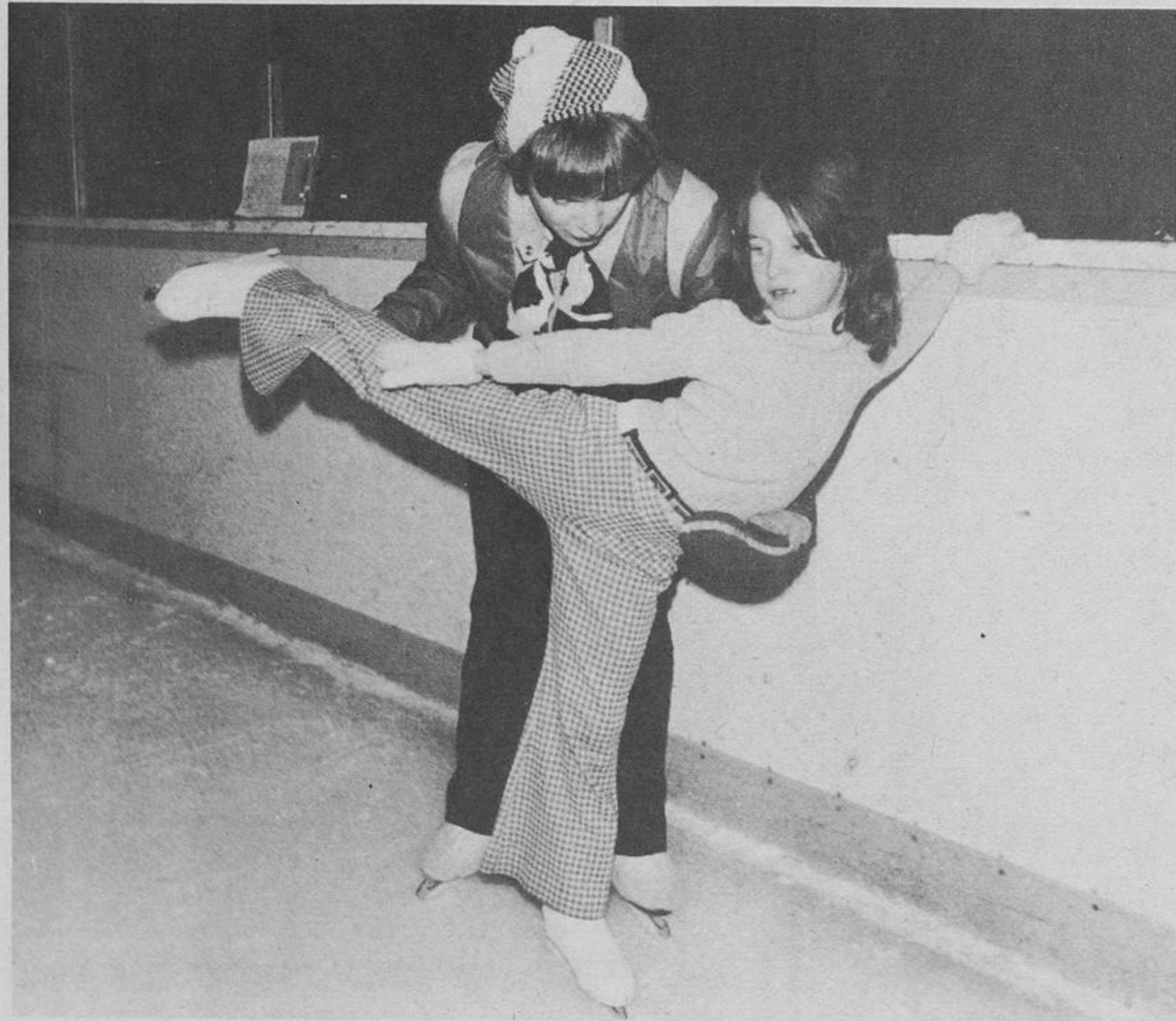


Lesson in dance

Cathy Elrick, 8, Silver Aspen Drive, gets a private dance lesson from professional Debbie Lawson, from Don Mills, during

a Thornhill Figure Skating Club session on the ice at the community centre.

Photos by Bruce Hogg



How to do it

Tracey Fleming, 9, Romfield Circuit, gets some instruction on how to do a spiral from Marion Ford,

professional with the Thornhill Figure Skating Club, who lives on Baif Boulevard, Richmond Hill.



Broomball has a purpose

Tina Elrick, 4, of Silver Aspen Drive, has a crack at broom ball, a game children play to get them

skating at the Thornhill Figure Skating Club. The club is only two years old but has 450 members.