

# 1978 big Thornhill skating year

By HAL BLAINE  
Thornhill's talented figure skaters are going to have to work hard another year before they start to shine in the big time.  
That's according to Mrs. Marilyn Wittstock, teaching professional at the club since it started three years ago. She's the former Marilyn Ruth Take, Ice Follies star, national seniors champion and Olympic competitor with Barbara Ann Scott.  
"It's a new club. The little kiddies who started three years ago are about ready to pass their second figure test. They have to have their third or fourth figure tests to enter pre-novice sectional competition. So hardly any of

them will be in big time competition until next year," says Mrs. Wittstock. She's one of nine teaching professionals at the club as it starts another big year this month. She also runs a skating summer school for a limited number of dedicated youngsters.  
"Quite a number in the club have the talent to be big winners in competition, if they develop the self-discipline and have the opportunity to put in the necessary work. But most skaters skate for pleasure.  
"A lot of them don't know what it really is to work. And then to really be a serious competitor is expensive.  
"They think at first that a 45-minute

patch is a great job. But what's really needed is hours. They gradually realize what is necessary.  
"Three or four 45-minute patches a week isn't enough to pass the tests for second figure and higher in one winter season. They have to put in more hours somehow."  
Of course Mrs. Wittstock is talking about real competition.  
There are many, many youngsters skating for fun, to have a recreation activity and fellowship. They can concentrate simply on dancing or free skating, or figures.  
But if they want to be a competitive single skater they've got to have the school figures that take a lot more

work and time. They do better if they also take gymnastics, and jazz or ballet dancing.  
"I hope there will be some skaters who have the desire to do the necessary work to go on to complete nationally," says the Thornhill pro.  
How did the child Marilyn Take get the inspiration and determination to be a champion?  
Her father started at the Toronto Skating Club while at Toronto University studying engineering. He began skating with a high school partner who became his wife.  
They were social skaters, not competitive. The club then had the world's largest amateur skating carnival at Maple Leaf Gardens. Little Marilyn went to these with mom and dad.  
When she saw the skating of Oslo world champion Sonja Heni and another champion Swedish interpretive skater, Marilyn knew the only thing she ever wanted to do was to be a competitive champion figure skating star. She started to train seriously at age 8. She passed her gold medal by 13. In that time she won every single trophy her club offered her.  
In 1943 she was runner-up in all of Canada in junior ladies single and junior pairs.  
She was runner-up in senior ladies' for Canada in 1944, 1945 and 1946, being champion in 1947.  
Marilyn trained six to eight hours a day while having high school tutors and writing exams at Lawrence Park Collegiate. She also took ballet two hours a week.  
"I missed all the nice social life there because I was training. I didn't seem to mind at the time."  
In 1948 she represented Canada in the world's championship at Davos, Switzerland. In the Olympics at St. Moritz she had some bad luck, bad weather and wind, placing twelfth after being sixth most of the way.  
She had a delightful, marvellous time.  
Then came the Ice Follies four-year contract and travel all over North America. That she thoroughly enjoyed, not for the skating but for other reasons.  
There was the travel chance and 2½ months a year in San Francisco. In those days that city was a wonder, so cosmopolitan and with unique shopping.  
In New York the shows, the opera and the shopping were very delightful.  
But doing the same ice show 11 times a week, 11 months a year got to be less enjoyable. She began to feel like a robot and practised only three hours a week.

Then came marriage, a Toronto stockbroker husband and three children. Jeffrey, now 23, has graduated in geology at Toronto University and is going on in his studies.  
Christopher, 21, is a third year engineering student at Toronto. This year at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club he was on the winning Canadian team in 14-foot dinghy competition and came third in individual competition.  
Melinda, 14, is working on her seventh figure skating test and was at the National Ballet School for the summer.  
If she hadn't been having some trouble with a knee, her chances would have been better this year as a seasoned competitor representing Thornhill Club. But she's still working hard.  
Another club star is Jennifer Keary, 14, who's ready for her fourth test.

She's doing well and has won a lot of free skating competitions. She'll be representing the club in the Central Ontario sectional competitions in November.  
So teaching pro Wittstock goes on with high hopes for her pupils, putting in a number of hours every week that would stun most people.  
She's also teaching at North York Figure Skating Club and Upper Canada Figure Skating Club. Her skaters have won bronze, silver and gold medals in national competition.  
She coached three years at the national pairs seminar at York University.  
What was her greatest thrill in life so far?  
That was the write-up in The Times of London, England, where the critic said her skating was the most beautiful and rhythmic he's seen in 40 years of reporting world skating events.



Maurice Solway demonstrates the violin at the Gallanough Library for Nina Alanco, 11, Elizabeth DeGiacomo, 8, and Eva Janssen, 7, of Thornhill. Solway talked and performed with his violin Oct. 6 to help celebrate the Gallanough's second anniversary. He also showed the film "The Violin."



MARILYN WITTSTOCK figure skating pro

## Showing way

## Trustee warns of tax hikes

The province has forecast budgetary revenues for 1978-79 to go up by 8.2 per cent but grants to school boards are to increase by only 4.8 per cent which makes a difference of \$69 million we are not going to get although we are entitled to, said Doreen Quirk, Vice-Chairman of the York County school board.  
She was addressing a group of parents at the annual Meet The Teachers' Night held October 3 at German Mills Public School. In 1973 Provincial Treasurer John White said that grants will go up as fast as provincial revenues.  
"To stay pat we are talking increase in the mill rate of approximately 11 per cent" she added. This year three local schools were told that an extra portable was not needed. German Mills Public School required three extra portables at a cost

of \$2,000 each, so instead of the \$1,500 that was expected to be added to the mill rate, \$6,000 was. It was an attempt to put some of the cost of education on the local mill rate instead of the provincial tax dollar.  
She also said that the cost of supplies is rapidly going up as well as the utilities to maintain the schools.  
Mrs. Quirk received some feedback from the parents and now plans to hold three public meetings around the first of November, — one in the German Mills-Bayview Fairways area, another in South Thornhill and one in North Thornhill. She said "I want to explain our fixed expenses representing over 90 per cent of our budget."  
According to Mrs. Quirk another alternative to increasing the mill rate is decreasing the number of teachers, which would result in larger classes.



## Last show

Speaker at the Thornhill and District Horticultural Society final flower and vegetable show of the year last week was Marion Jarvie. Immediate past president of the society, she demonstrated dried flower arrangements that will last until spring.

## HELPMATE INFORMATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

883-2234

October

883-2234

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>12</b> Jazz festival at Hillcrest Mall. 5.30 to 8 p.m. R.H. majorettes and color guard 6.30 — 9.15 p.m. Lions Hall. McHappy Day — Proceeds of all Big Macs go to crippled children from McDonald's Restaurant.	<b>13</b> R.H. Curling Club. Open House 7 p.m. Elgin Mills Road, east of Yonge. York Central Assn. for the Mentally Retarded. Coffee House and travelogue. Hillcrest Mall. 8-10 p.m. R.H. Drum Corps. Crosby Heights Senior Public School. 7-9 p.m.	<b>14</b> Old Timers hockey tournament. Thornhill Community Centre. 32 teams involved. Aldrad Art Exhibit. All month. Richmond Hill Library. York Pioneer Bowmen. Winter sessions for families or individuals. Thornlea Secondary. 7-10 p.m. R.H. Curling Club. Open House. 7 p.m. Elgin Mills Road, east of Yonge.	<b>15</b> Rummage Sale. St. Gabriels, Crosby & Bayview 10 a.m. - noon. Seneca King October EcoFair. 10 a.m. King campus. Old Timers hockey tournament continues at Thornhill Community Centre. Coin Club. Annual show. Hillcrest Mall. 9.30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
<b>16</b> Old Timers hockey tournament concludes. Thornhill Community Centre. 32 teams participating.	<b>17</b> Lay Pastoral training course. York Central Hospital. 8 p.m. Contact F. Ferguson 881-2635 or your clergy. Mother's Break at St. Paul's in Oak Ridges. 9.30 a.m. Call 773-5025. Making a will. Thornhill Community Centre Library. 8-10 p.m. Free.	<b>18</b> York Central Hospital Auxiliary East Central Branch. Bridge & euchre at Lions Hall. 7.30 p.m. Legal Aid clinic. 10225A Yonge St. every Tuesday. 7-10 p.m. 884-9148. Making a will. Repeat of Monday.	<b>19</b> Bridge, euchre, crokinole. 8 p.m. Maple United Church. LCW meeting. 8 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Bayview Ave. Film & travel. R.H. Library. 8 p.m. Free. Jazz Festival. Hillcrest Mall. 5.30-8 p.m. Royal Jubilee. St. Paul's United Church. Oak Ridges.	<b>20</b> Richmond Hill Minor Ball Assn. general election of officers. Consumers' Gas building. 7.30-10.30 p.m. Richmond Hill Library. Main Branch. Brass rubbing 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. Thornhill Seniors. Note: Nutrition and fitness seminar. 9.30 — 11.30 a.m. 6030 Yonge.	<b>21</b> Aldrad Art Exhibition all month. Richmond Hill Library. A mini-draw for a Caribbean Cruise. Lions Hall. 7.30-9 p.m. Aircraft models. Richmond Hill Library for the rest of October. R. Hill Naturalists meet at R. Hill Presbyterian Church. 8 p.m. Members night. All welcome.	<b>22</b> Trafalgar Ball, sponsored by sea cadets & navy league. Dance & buffet at Legion. Ohio Road. St. John's Anglican Church Bazaar. St. Patrick's Anglican fall fair, mini-carnival. 11 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. Luncheon. All welcome.
<b>23</b> Thornhill Kiwanis Club craft sale. York Farmers' Market. 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.	<b>24</b> New group of Canadian Housewives, organizational meeting 8 p.m. 832-2364.	<b>25</b> Family service volunteers auction of antiques and collectables. 8 p.m. Blue Flame Room, Consumers Gas building. 884-3577 or 889-2843. Richmond Hill Community Schools. "Nutrition & Fitness". Crosby Senior Public. 7.30-9.30 p.m. free. Legal Aid clinic. 7-10 p.m. 884-9148. 10225A Yonge.	<b>26</b> Jazz Festival. Hillcrest Mall. 5.30-8 p.m. Carrville United Church annual turkey supper. 4.30-8 p.m. All welcome.	<b>27</b> Tag day for sea cadets and navy league. Coffee House. York Central Assn. for the Mentally Retarded. 8-10 p.m. St. Mary's Immaculate.	<b>28</b> Aldrad Art exhibition. Richmond Hill Library. All month. Tag day for sea cadets and navy league. Octoberfest Dance. St. Mary's Immaculate 8.30 p.m. Alpine Show Band. All welcome.	<b>29</b> Rummage Sale 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Maple United Church. Fuddle Duddle fall dance at Legion. 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Bazaar, Sr. Citizen's Club 35 at 10145 Yonge. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. York Central Hospital auxiliary auction. Consumers Gas building. 12.30 p.m.