

# Best on boards open track

The skateboard, that wondrous device that makes a kid feel he is on cloud nine by getting his feet three inches off the ground, is threatening to become an industry as fast as it is becoming a sport.

Last week, Markham businessman Doug Meharg and two out-of-town partners launched Ontario Skateboards Parks Ltd., from a former cowbarn on the old Markham Fairgrounds.

On the outside, the place still looks like a cowbarn but the inside has been transformed into the first skateboard track in eastern Canada.

The place almost defies description, but it looks like a laboratory where they used to study water waves that has just been rediscovered by kids.

The floor is flat in a few places, wavy in others and has been scooped out to form what looks like a series of empty, rounded swimming pools in others.

One of them in fact is the shape of a swimming pool that skateboarders have adopted for their own, said Bob James, the skateboard park publicist.

The first skateboard park was built in California two years ago and there are now about 200.

Enthusiasts are kept up-to-date by four different glossy magazines and 22 countries have sanctioned skateboarding as an Olympic sport.

The Markham skateboard track opened two Saturdays ago at 8 a.m. with a line-up of kids at the door. The first pair said they had been waiting since 5 a.m. More than 3,000 youngsters were put through the track in the first six days. The cost if \$1 for club members and \$1.50 for non-members for one hour.

Friday night some of the best skateboarders from the Toronto area and beyond demonstrated their skills at a reception. Wearing their mandatory helmets elbow and knee pads and gloves, they zoomed up and down the sides of the concrete pits, while relatives, and friends of the owners and Markham dignitaries looked down from above.

David Frank from Dundas, skated in



Doug Teramoto shows skill in snake pit

something resembling a swallow-tail coat. The trip was worth it, he said. "Everybody who is anybody is here."

That was in the skateboarding world. Most of the Markham council was there along with the town's administrator, recreation director and deputy planning director and Richmond Hill Mayor David Schiller who said a skateboard park had been considered for the former Dominion Store building in the Hill.

Markham mayor Tony Roman said "Doug (Meharg) came to me several months ago saying he had something really exciting. When I saw the plans, I got really excited, too. I never saw anything go through council so quickly."

That was after some legal negotiations to give the town control over the property use without spending any town money. The Town planners decided the park was an allowable use for the open space zone it occupies.

After the speeches, Doug Teramoto

demonstrated the most difficult run through the long, twisting "snake pit." Teramoto was the club "test pilot" during the track's construction.

The visitors went back to the snack

bar which was serving something stronger than soft drinks for the first and probably the last time.

Several admitted to suddenly feeling old.

## Chamber seminar offers tax tips

"Tax Topics" is the subject of the final seminar in the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce series, planned for Wednesday, December 14.

The presentation, to be held in the Blue Flame Room of the Consumers' Gas Company, 500 Elgin

Mills Road East, is open to all members of the public.

The 8 to 10 p.m. meeting will feature two chartered accountants, Roy Hogg and George Decourcy, both of Arthur Andersen and Company who will offer advice on a variety of tax problems. The agenda includes

discussion on the new dividend tax credit system, tax planning for small businesses, stock options, corporate surplus accounts and other changes in the tax system.

Pre-registration is not necessary. Just show up at the door. Admission is \$2.

## Majorette

### SUCCESS

Mrs. E. Hillaby of Elmwood Avenue, Richmond Hill, won the afghan in the draw for the Richmond Hill Lions Majorette and Drum Corps, bazaar.

The Lions Christmas Cake was won with ticket 177055.

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COST: \$33.00 per couple includes champagne, dinner served after midnight

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