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

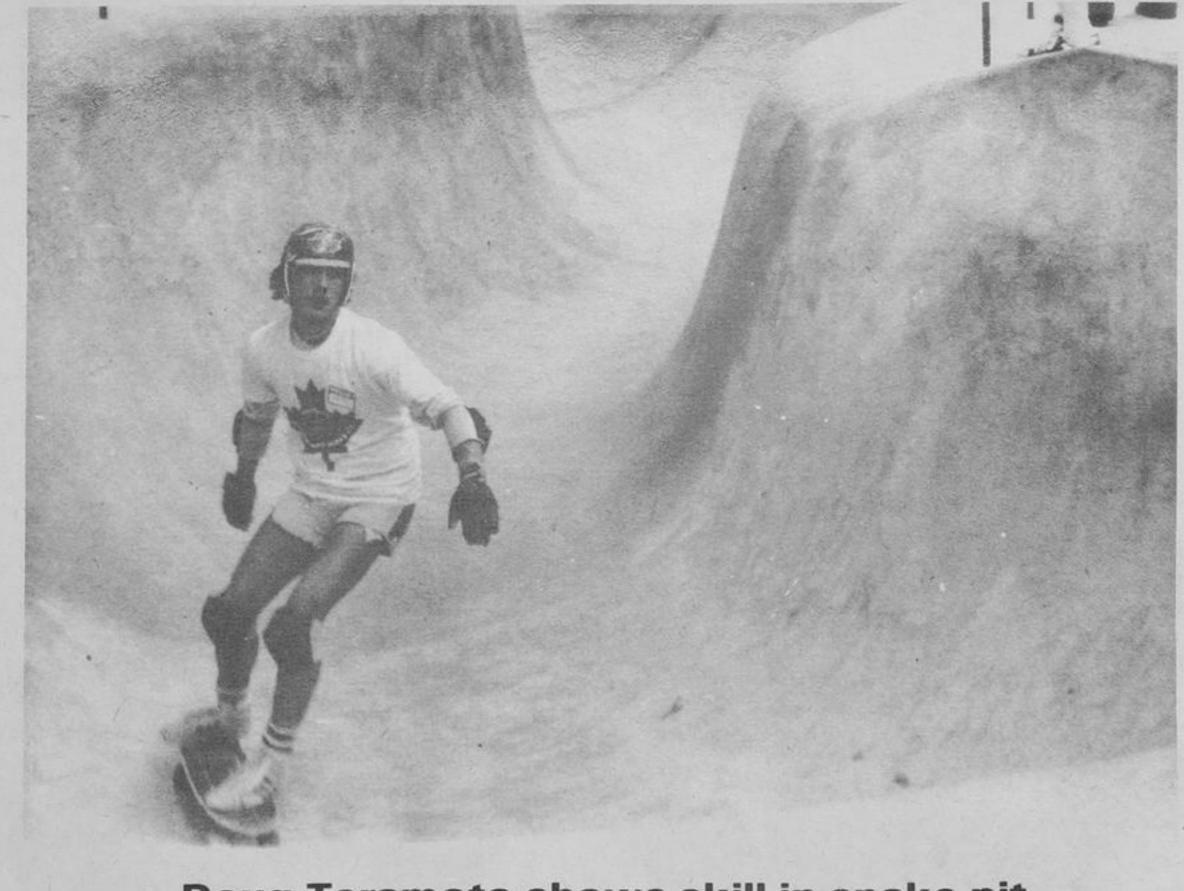
have adopted for their own, said Bob James, the skateboard park publicist. The first skateboard park was built in California two years ago and there are something resembling a swallow-tail

now about 200. four different glossy magazines and 22 have sanctioned countries skateboarding as an Olympic sport.

opened two Saturdays ago at 8 a.m. since 5 a.m. More than 3,000 youngsters were put through the track in the first Store building in the Hill. six days. The cost if \$1 for club mem-

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

'coat. The trip was worth it, he said.

That was in the skateboarding world. Most of the Markham council was there along with the town's ad-The Markham skateboard track ministrator, recreation director and deputy planning director and Richwith a line-up of kids at the door. The mond Hill Mayor David Schiller who first pair said they had been waiting said a skateboard park had been considered for the former Dominion

Markham mayor Tony Roman said bers and \$1.50 for non-members for one "Doug (Meharg) came to me several months ago saying he had something really exciting. When I saw the plans, I subject of the final to all members of the dividend tax credit got really excited, too. I never saw seminar in the Richmond public. anything go through council so Hill Chamber of Com- The 8 to 10 p.m. meeting small businesses, stock quickly.

That was after some legal Wednesday, December accountants, Roy Hogg' plus accounts and other negotiations to give the town control 14. over the property use without spending any town money. The Town planners The presentation, to be and Company who will Pre-registration is not decided the park was an allowable use held in the Blue Flame offer advice on a variety necessary. Just show up for the open space zone it occupies..

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through the long, twisting "snake pit." Enthusiasts are kept up-to-date by "Everybody who is anybody is here." Teramoto was the club "test pilot" during the track's construction. The visitors went back to the snack old.

demonstrated the most difficult run bar which was serving something stronger than soft drinks for the first and probably the last time. Several admitted to suddenly feeling

Chamber seminar offers tax tips

"Tax Topics" is the Mills Road East, is open discussion on the new

Room of the Consumers' of tax problems.

both of Arthur Andersen system.

at the door. The agenda includes Admission is \$2.

system, tax planning for merce series, planned for will feature two chartered options, corporate surand George Decourcy, changes in the tax



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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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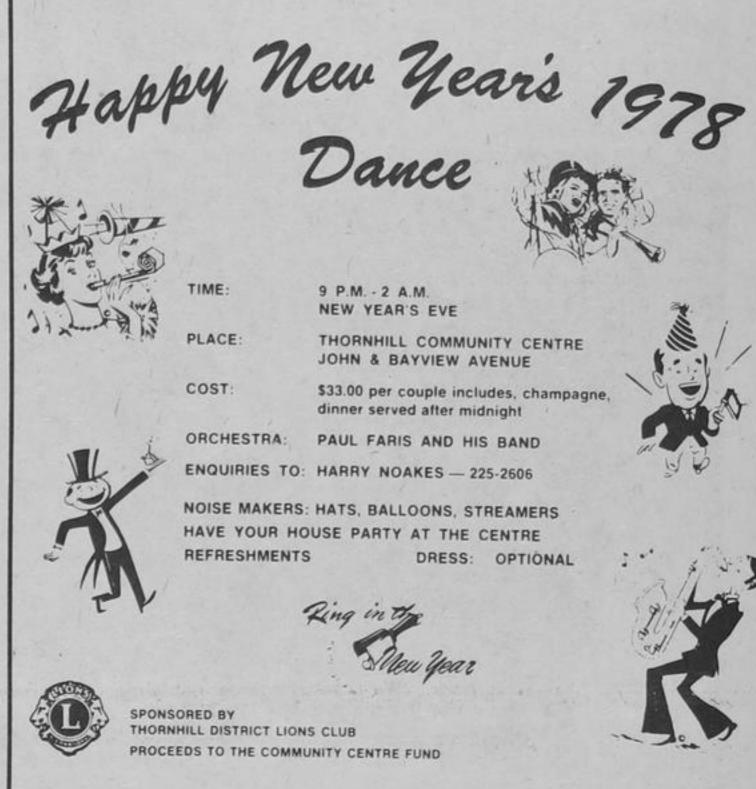
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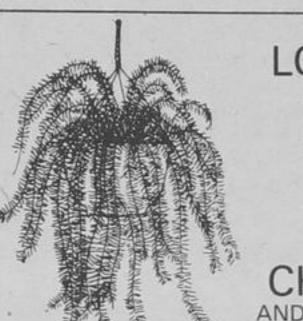
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