

Weekender

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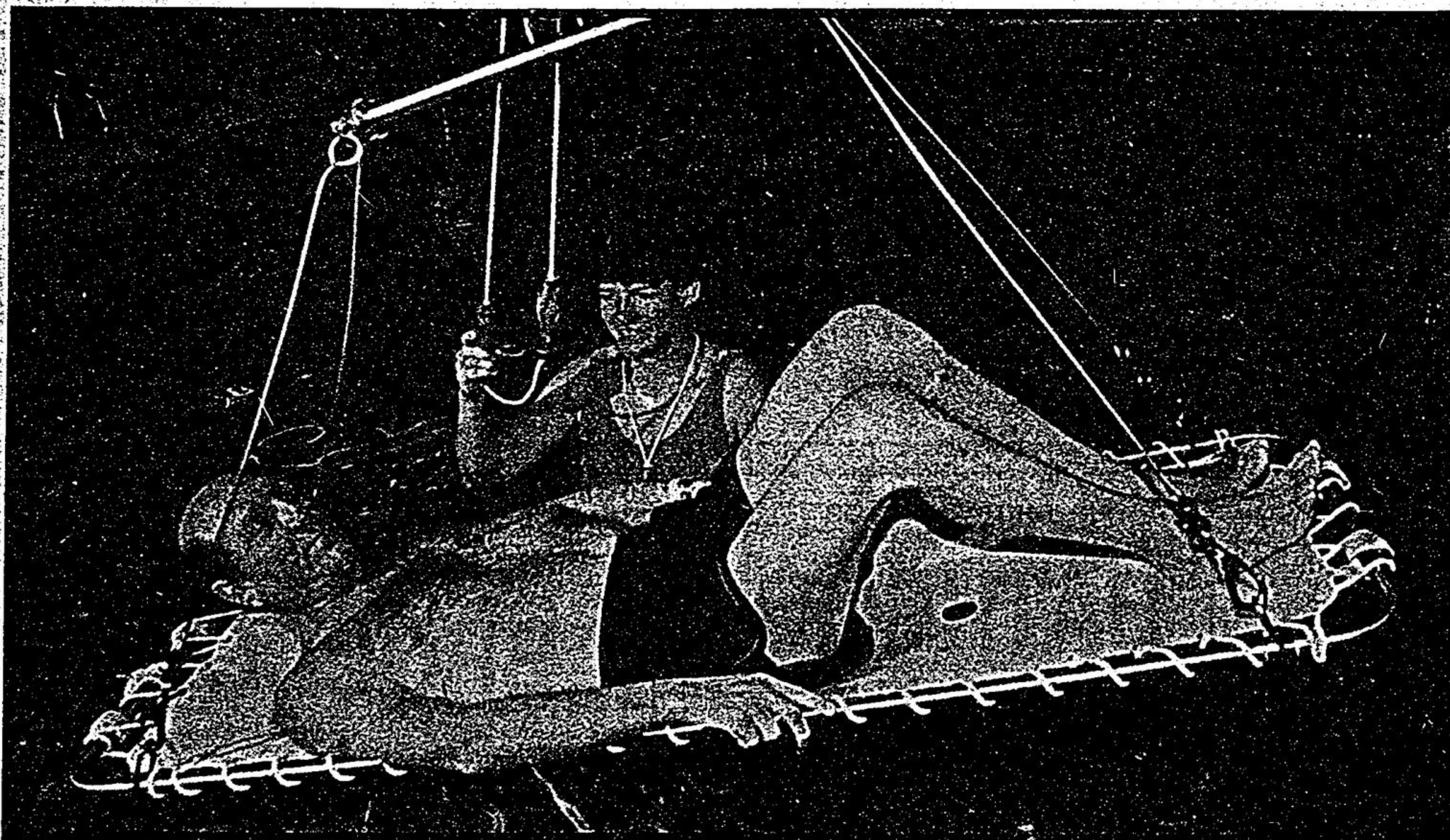
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Figure skater is new Queen



By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Staff Reporter

A 15-year-old figure skating enthusiast will reign over Claremont's fourth annual Winter Carnival as 1987 Snow Queen.

Samantha Creet was selected from a field of nine contestants during a pageant held Thursday evening at Claremont Community Centre. She was crowned by 1986 Queen Susie Pekkinen.

The promising Uxbridge Skating Club member is no stranger to the competitive spotlight, however, as just last weekend she won a silver medal in a flight of her club's annual invitational competition.

Samantha's presentation during the speech portion of Thursday's contest centred on her ambition to compete in the free dance figure skating event at the 1996 Winter Olympics.

The Grade 9 student at Pickering High School also enjoys dancing and reading when she can find time away from her demanding academic and skating schedule.

Also among the five pageant finalists were first runner-up Holly Kelso, 16, second runner-up Kelly Foxton, 17, plus Lynnette Barry and Michelle Anderson. Other entrants were Sharon Uzzell, Kim Wood, Leanne Redshaw and Wendy Rykman.

Pageant judges were Global TV newscameraman Dan Lafey, who resides on Durham Region Rd. 5 west of Claremont; Claremont Public School principal Gail Elliott; and sculptor Cathy Lombard of Claremont. Carnival organizer Al Graham served as master of ceremonies.

A collection was taken during the evening in aid of the family of Claremont's Bill Pepper, who died suddenly of a heart attack this past week.

The hamlet's five-day winter festival officially kicked-off yesterday with a torchlit parade and opening ceremony in the community park.

Action gears up today (Jan. 31) with everything from a parade planned along Old Brock Rd. at 10 a.m., to a Trappers Ball beginning at 8 p.m. in the 4 Seasons Golf & Country Club. Carnival events carry through to Sunday evening.

For Ron Fenson it's been a long fight back from serious injuries suffered in a head-on collision last November. Here, he is lowered into a therapeutic pool at St. John's Rehabilitation Centre with the help of therapist Karen McKay.

Councillor opposes new post

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Staff Reporter

Whitchurch-Stouffville has okayed the hiring of an engineering co-ordinator, but not before one councillor criticized the move as "getting the cart before the horse."

Jim Sanders voiced strong objections Tuesday evening when Town Council dealt with a personnel committee report recommending establishment of the position at an annual salary between \$37,300 and \$43,140.

"We haven't done our homework, we haven't done our management and administration. And we should be doing that before we hire an engineering co-ordinator," the Ward 6 representative said before the report was approved.

Seven separate areas of the Town's municipal operation have been reviewed, according to Councillor Sanders. He feels these should now be administered to by the mayor and clerk co-ordinator.

"We're now putting ourselves in the position where we're going to hire someone and hope they come up with all the answers," he claimed. "We'll have more high-paid staff doing the same work as now."

Mr. Sanders also said there isn't an adequate job description detailing just what's expected of an engineering co-ordinator.

"We're putting the person in a very difficult position before they even get started," he said, claiming no clear pattern of organization has been established for the job.

Ads for the opening have already appeared in the classified section of a Toronto daily newspaper.

The successful candidate is to be a certified technician with a minimum of five years municipal or related experience in a supervisory position.

Responsible to Town Council through Clerk Co-ordinator Pat Muir, the engineering co-ordinator will head up the operation of the works and parks departments and Town facilities. This includes preparation and monitoring of the respective operating and capital budgets.

Other duties are formulation and implementation of policies within those departments, as well as administration of the engineering aspects of subdivision and site plan agreements.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury said the hiring of an engineering co-ordinator is intended to help ease the heavy workload carried by works superintendent Ron Gibson.

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