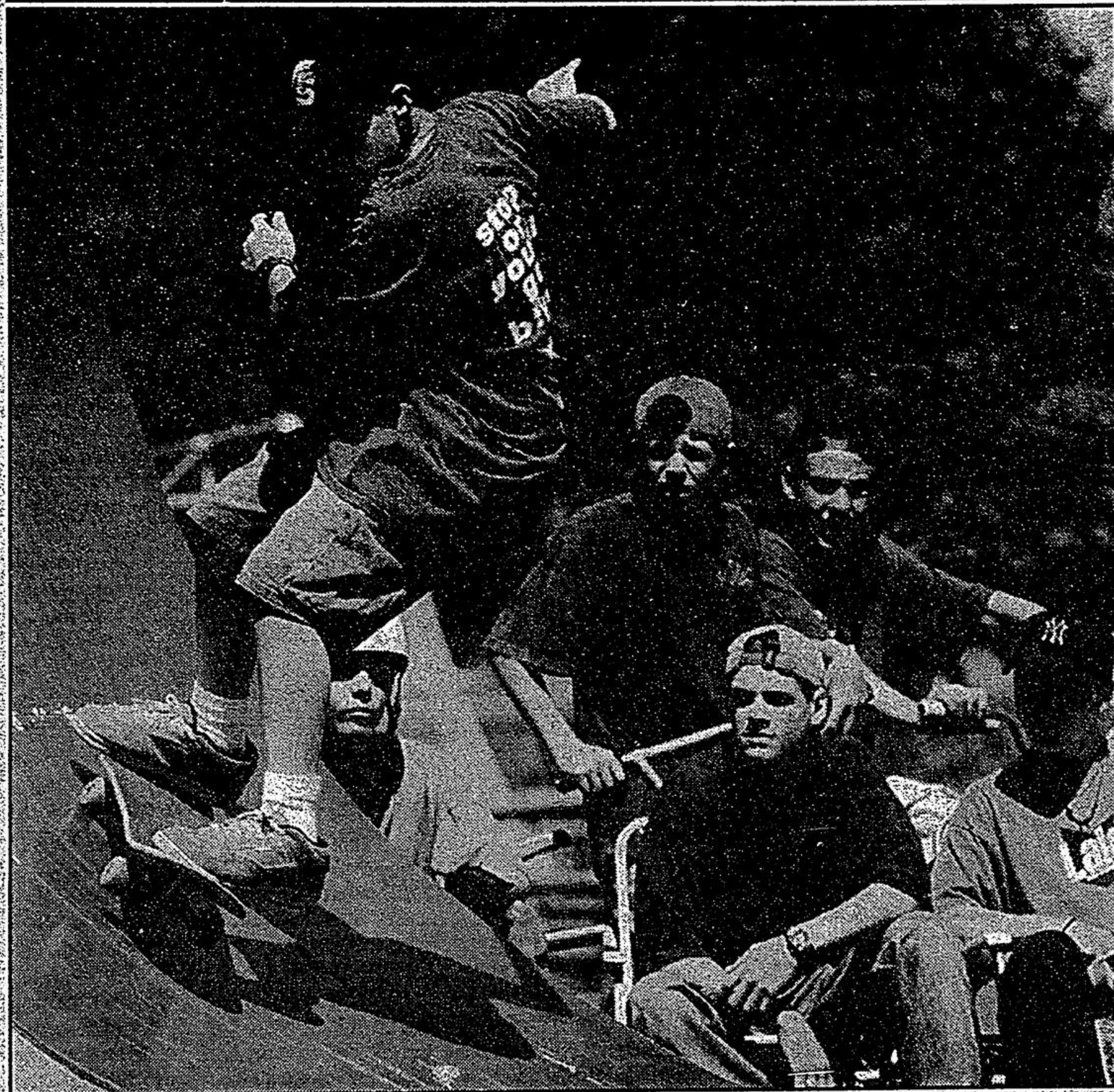


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STEADY NOW: Skateboard enthusiast Brandon Tardella, 14, executes a routine on the recently constructed half pipe facility in Ballantrae. The facility was built by two Ballantrae women, Donna O'Neill and her sister, Kathy.
 Photo by SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Ballantrae women build half pipe for area youngsters

BRUCE STAPLEY
 Correspondent

Build a better half pipe and the world will beat a path to your door.

That's what two Ballantrae sisters have discovered as they watch young skate boarders and roller bladers of the neighborhood flock over to strut their stuff on their handywork.

The home made structure, which measures eight feet wide and 32 feet long, was originally constructed last year by sisters Donna and Kathy O'Neill in the yard of their mother, Audrey O'Neill.

Donna, a single mom who along with her 15-year-old son Shawn lives in her mother's Ballantrae home, expanded the structure at the beginning of this season.

Audrey O'Neill put on the finishing touches when she painted

it. Donna revealed son Shawn was involved as well.

"Shawn wanted me to build it so he designed it on his computer," she said.

As many as 25 young neighborhood teens will show up at once to take turns negotiating the half pipe, said Donna.

The action usually runs from when she gets home from work in mid-afternoon until dark.

Donna said there are strict rules in effect to assist in crowd control.

"Each of them gets to stay on it until they fall, then another one has a turn. There's no smoking, no swearing, and they're not allowed to ride their bikes across the neighbors' lawns. There's a nine o'clock curfew, and there always has to be someone in the house for safety reasons."

Does Donna ever get the urge to strap on a pair of roller blades and try her luck on her creation?

"No way!" she replies emphatically. "My son tells me all the lingo, but I don't even know what they're talking about."

Donna, who works as a manager at the Canadian Tire Gas Bar in Stouffville, inherits her talents with the tools from her late father James O'Neill, cited her brother in law Fred Timms.

"She gets it from her dad," said Timms, who insists Donna's half pipe is a cut above the one recently installed at Memorial Park.

"He was an employee of Ontario Hydro who was always helping the neighbors complete their basements when he got home from work."

When asked if she might eventually apply her talents to setting up a lighting system so the kids can use the half pipe after dark, Donna said that's where she would draw the line.

"No, no. I don't want the kids here all night!"

Rutledge homer propels Fullerton win

Jo Anne Rutledge bashed a home run to ignite Fullerton's Place to an 8-6 victory over Fairgate Homes in Tuesday Night Ladies Fun Softball League play at the town park ball diamond on July 15.

In other action, Delores Kroupis had a round tripper for Canguard, but it wasn't quite enough as Colley, Borland and Vale prevailed 14-13.

In the other match, Pizza Pizza won by forfeit over White Rodgers.

Spirit to host inaugural golf tournament

BRUCE STAPLEY
 Correspondent

While Spirit of Stouffville hopefuls take to the ice for a skate on Wednesday evenings for the next few weeks, the Provincial Junior A Hockey League club continues its initiative to become a mainstream community organization.

The first ever Spirit of Stouffville Golf Tournament is to be held on Sept. 8 at the Maples of Ballantrae.

Every foursome is to include a Spirit player or official, with the \$125 entry fee to include 18 holes of golf with power cart, dinner and a chance to win valuable prizes. Hole sponsorships are also available.

Tournament organizers expect the event to prove popular.

"We think it will be an excellent day," said committee member Ken Burrows. "And we hope people will take this opportunity to meet the players and members of our hockey organization."

Golfers or sponsors can contact Burrows (640-9841) or Jeff Cowley (640-4125).

The committee also includes Wilf Morley, Jack Burrows, Tom Aird, Gary Carr and Carol Guinane.

The Spirit, who begin training camp Aug. 12, will hold Wednesday evening skating sessions at the Rec Centre until camp gets under way.

New Spirit general manager Clive Moody, the golf tournament is one of several activities the club is planning to bring the community on board for the 1997-98 season.

"We definitely have some goals. The big thing is to involve the community," said Moody.

"We've got the golf tournament coming up, and there will be numerous other community events as well."

On the ice, Moody said to look for the Spirit roster to include some promising young talent.

"We're anticipating we'll have four 15 year olds drafted in the first round of this year's OHL draft."



Rebels rally to make Oshawa sing the Blues

The Claremont Rebels continue to combine timely hitting with solid pitching in Oshawa City and District Fastball Association play.

The Rebels got a clutch bases loaded triple from Brad Evans with two out in the sixth inning to pull out a come-from-behind 3-2 win over the Oshawa Blues at Claremont Park on Wednesday.

Evans' big blow made a winner of pitcher Jim Chilvers, who scattered four hits while accumulating 15 strikeouts.

Chilvers fanned six of the first eight batters he faced, carrying a no hitter into the fourth inning when he was touched

for a run on two singles.

The Blues made it 2-0 in the top of the sixth on a single and a double despite the fact Chilvers had three strikeouts in the inning.

The Rebels mounted their comeback in the sixth inning when Dave Jones led things off with a single.

Rob Watson also singled after a sacrifice bunt by Tom Watson, with a walk by Chilvers to load the bases. Jones was then forced out at home on a fielder's choice, after which Evans delivered his bases clearing blow. The Rebels are scheduled to host Aurora on July 30 at 8:30 p.m.

Riders saddle up to place second

A pair of Whitchurch-Stouffville riders posted impressive results at the second Central Ontario Region of Pony Club show jumping qualifier held July 20 in Ajax.

Cynthia Johnson of the Pause/While Pony

Club was second in the Beginner 1 Ponies division, riding Just Kid-ding. Laura Valenta of the Whitchurch Pony Club finished second in the Novice category aboard Junior.

The event was the sec-

ond of three qualifiers for the Ontario Pony Club Tournament of Champions, which will see teams chosen to represent Central Ontario. The third and final qualifier is to be held in Sud-bury Aug. 9.