

# Stingray juvenile girls spike bronze

The York Region Stingrays juvenile girls captured the bronze medal at the recent Ontario Volleyball Association Challenge Cup in Newmarket after defeating the Midland Vista 2-0 (25-20, 25-17) in the consolation final.

Missing four key players, including three due to injuries, the Stingrays won their first two pool play games over the Barrie Cubs 2-0 (25-11, 25-17) and the Peel Selects 2-0 (25-21, 25-20) and then

split with the Richmond Hill Scramblers (25-11, 19-25).

The Stingrays then defeated the Barrie Cubs 2-0 (25-16, 25-11) in its quarter-final game before being edged 2-1 by the Selects '83 (25-19, 17-25, 10-15) in a semi-final contest.

In earning the bronze medal, the Stingrays qualified for tier one competition against the top nine teams in the province on Feb. 17.

# Cedarena withstands the test of time

It's a skater's paradise. For 74 seasons, Cedarena in Cedar Grove has welcomed tens of thousands of people to this Rouge Valley winter wonderland. To celebrate, a gala birthday party is planned for Jan. 30 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. The location is 7373 Reesor Rd., two miles south of Highway 7.

On this occasion, hot chocolate and donuts will be served, "just like the good old days," says rink manager Rick Lapp. Spot and door prizes will also be featured.

Admission, adults only, is \$5. Cedarena first opened in 1927 thanks to the generosity of the late Arthur Lapp. He leased the site to a group of ambition community residents for \$1 a year. It's been going ever since.

But not without problems. In 1929, the area was ravaged by a devastating flood that destroyed everything in its path. Later, the pumphouse was damaged by fire. These setbacks, however, didn't deter the enthusiasm of volunteers. What was lost was soon replaced.

While time has seemingly stood still for Cedarena, much around has changed.

"Families would come by team and sleigh or horse and cutter," Bob Lapp, Rick's father recalls. They'd park their steeds



Jim Thomas

in sheds across the road, now the site of Rouge Valley Mennonite Church.

"Winters were colder then, and snowier," says Bob.

"One year, we had 54 days of skating," remembers Bob. Last year, an unusually mild winter, reduced the season to 39.

This winter's been one of the best. Skating started just after Christmas.

Bob credits the late Austin Reesor with engineering a flooding system that's still used today. Water is pumped from the Rouge River through a one-inch hose into a 1,000-gallon holding tank.

Other managers to follow include: Wally Reesor, Dave Ritchie Sr., Ken Deer, Dave Ritchie Jr., Bill Virdiramo, Gary Mount and now Rick Lapp. More than 15 volunteers remain on standby to assist should the area be hit by snow.

Originally, the ice surface was a standard 75 feet by 175 feet. When pleasure skating attendance increased and speeders became popular, the size was upped to 100 feet by 200 feet. The clubhouse was also enlarged and a snack bar was added.

"The toilets are a little primitive," Bob admits. "One doesn't sit too long."

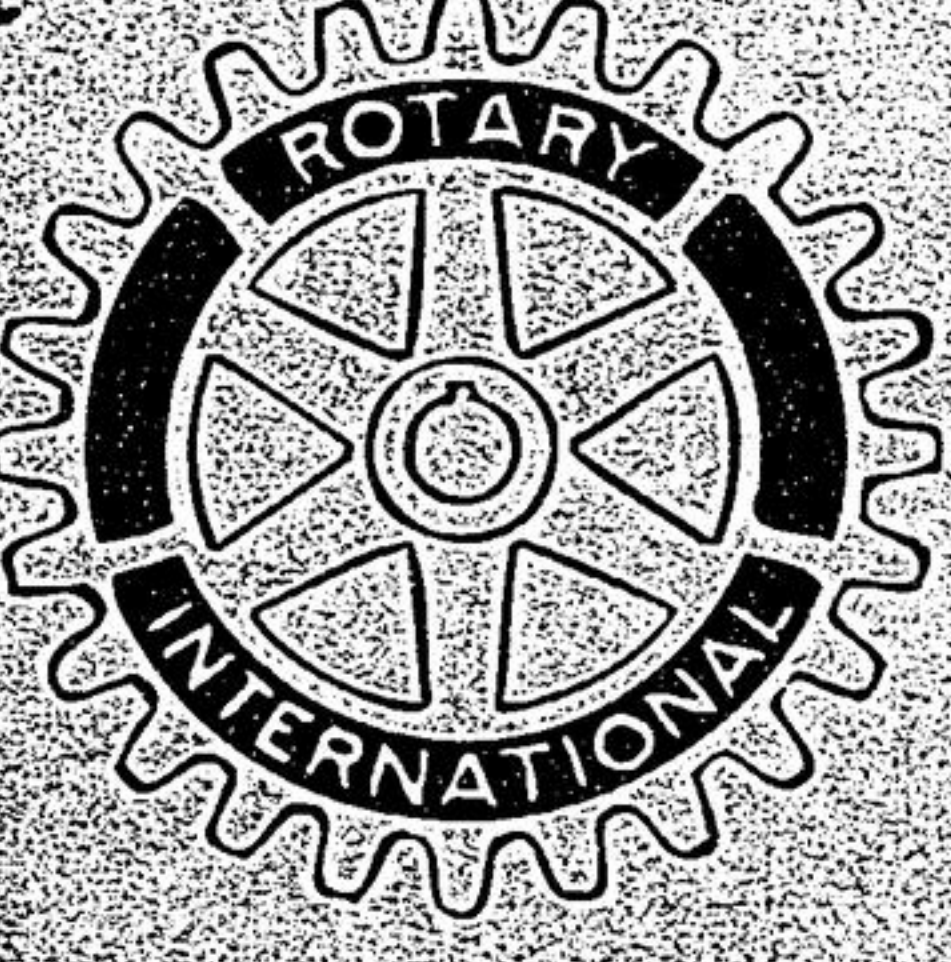
Music, once provided via an age-old gramophone, is now taped. But the type of music's still the same. Unlike many arenas, management's resisted the trend towards rock and roll.

"It's real skating music," Bob says. "That's what real skaters want."

There was some resistance to Sunday skating, Bob recalls, but now it's the most popular day. Crowds exceeding 500 are not uncommon.

Other skating dates are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for \$2 adults; children 12 and under \$1. Saturdays and Sundays are \$2.50. Monday and Wednesdays are reserved for hockey.

While build-up abounds, Bob feels Cedarena's location, on conservation lands, will protect it from urban sprawl. This is his hope and the hope of countless others who weekly enjoy this skaters' paradise.



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**FINAL HOURS**

<b>Mon.-Tues.</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Wed., January 24</b>	<b>9 - 5</b>
<b>Thurs., January 25</b>	<b>9 - 5</b>
<b>Fri., January 26</b>	<b>9 - 5</b>
<b>Sat., January 27</b>	<b>8 - 4</b>
<b>Sun., January 28</b>	<b>9 - 4</b>

# Macri is motoring his way up the ranks

Jonathan Macri, the 18-year-old racer who captured the Canadian Formula Ford Championship last summer, recently signed a deal to compete this season in the CART Toyota Atlantic Championship.

Entering his last year of high school, the Gormley resident will be driving for P-1 Racing Team of San Clemente, California.

Macri wasted little time in adjusting to his new surroundings as he recently piloted his new NTN Bearings Swift Atlantic vehicle at the Buttonwillow Raceway Park in California for a couple of days.

In his debut, Macri logged close to 90 miles around the 1.38-mile test track and ran consistently in the mid-59-second range. On the second day, he ran consistently in the 59-second range while logging around 165 miles.

"The objective in this test was to get Jonathan acclimated with the Atlantic car and the team," said P-1 crew chief Tony Smetona. "Coming from the FF1600 series, the levels of downforce, braking and acceleration are much higher than what he's used to. He did very well."

Team owner Bill Fickling was pleased with the way Macri handled the vehicle.

"His speed and mature driving style show he has the potential to be a front runner."

Macri is excited with the prospects of moving up in calibre this season and inching a step closer towards his ultimate goal of racing in the North American CART series.

"It was great to get back on the track again," he said. "I'm very excited about the upcoming season. I thank NTN Bearings for providing this support and I will do my best to put the NTN car at the front."



JONATHAN MACRI: Gormley resident to race in CART Toyota Atlantic Championship series this season