

Former speed skating champ still passionate about skating

Stouffville native earned crown 60 years ago

BY JIM THOMAS
Correspondent

It was 60 years ago when Stouffville resident Marion Atkinson skated off with an Ontario Junior Silver Blades Speed Skating Championship at the old Mutual Street Arena in Toronto.

Marion Wells may have lost a stride or two since that memorable achievement.

But she's never lost her enthusiasm for the sport.

Wells still skates regularly every Tuesday night in Stouffville and recently participated in the season opener at Cedarena in Markham.

Wells learned to skate on a

pond at the Markham farm of her grandparents, David and Mary Atkinson.

"Like so many others, I used a chair for support," she recalls. Later, she borrowed her mother's speeders and, in her own words, "I never looked back."

She still uses speeders today, her most recent pair purchased 10 years ago.

Wells admits she enjoys Cedarena, mainly because of its natural ice.

"I don't know what there is about it, (natural ice)," she says, "but skates seem to glide so much easier."

Her favourite place to skate, though, is the Rideau Canal in Ottawa.

"It's a location everyone should try at least once," she says. "It's wonderful."

Wells agrees times have changed over the past 60 years.



MARION WELLS: Learned to skate on her grandparents' farm in Markham and still dons the blades in Stouffville.

"Barbara Ann Scott brought figure skating to the fore back in the 1950s and figure skates are what most girls use," she says.

"hardly anyone buys speeders."

She feels something's been lost.

"Young girls just wiggle and jiggle," she laughs, "they don't skate to music."

And the music, says Wells, now that's another story. There's little comparison between The Skaters, Waltz and Jailhouse Rock, she says. And this, too, is what she likes about Cedarena.

"They play real skating tunes," she states.

Wells remembers skating in the old Stouffville Arena where the outdoor pool is now located.

"I should remember," she recalls with a smile. "That's where I met my husband (Glen). I caught him because I could skate faster."

She recalls skating to a live band, a feature attraction every three weeks.

She also remembers everyone

drinking water out of the same old metal pail and using the same old enamel dipper.

"And no one died," she said.

Of all speed skaters she's ever seen, Wells claims Betty Acton, mother of Toronto Maple Leafs assistant coach Keith Acton, is the best.

Of the men, Elson Miles is pretty good too, she says.

What does the future hold for the seniors pleasure skating club in Stouffville?

"We need more young people," she says. "It takes 30 admissions a night to break even."

The Tuesday skate runs from 8:55 to 9:50 p.m. There's also a free seniors skate every Thursday afternoon.

Wells is 72, but has no plans to retire.

"As long as I have enough get-up to go, I'll keep on going," she declared.

SPORTSBOARD

E-MAIL: mhayakawa@yrng.com

HOCKEY

Stouffville Amateur

PLAYOFF STANDINGS OF MARCH 7

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS
Houston Ford	3	0	0	6
KenDon Contracting	2	0	1	5
pendesign	1	0	2	4
SmartLawn	2	1	0	4
Burrows Landscaping	2	1	0	4
All-Weld Co.	1	1	1	3
Beaumarc Printing	1	2	0	2
K.R. May Real Estate	1	2	0	2
Boyd's Sports	0	3	0	0
Miller Waste Systems	0	3	0	0

OVER-35

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS
McKay Mortgages	3	0	2	8
National Sports	3	1	1	7
Steve&Liz No Frills	2	1	2	6
MGH Office Repairs	2	1	2	6
Jones Pools	2	2	1	5
Dermody Insurance	2	2	1	5
Williamsons Uxbridge	2	2	1	5
Painters Edge	1	3	1	3
Bully Boys Sports	1	3	1	3
Schell Lumber	1	4	0	2

SENIOR

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS
Nesbitt Burns	4	1	1	9
Omega Advisors	3	1	2	8
Stevens Large Tree Farms	2	1	3	7
B. Phillips Steeplejacks	2	3	1	5

Royal LePage	2	3	1	5
Habasit Canada	1	5	0	2

WOMEN

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS
Boyd's Sports	5	2	1	11
Tickled Toad Pub & Grill	4	3	1	9
Jack, Terry & McCalmont	4	3	1	9
CapCom Automation	3	2	3	9
Curves for Women	3	4	1	7
Roswill Pools	1	6	1	3

Markham-Stouffville Girls

HOUSE LEAGUE	W	L	T	PTS
NOVICE: Noma Cable Tech 2 (Jenna Russ, Robyn McFee) vs Mr. Electric 2 (Kenzie Murray 2), ATOM: Caithness				

Marketing 2 (Lauren Mandzy, Kylee Templeton) vs Merry Maids of Markham 1 (Jessica Burt); Harry Bowes 5 (Lauren Rogers 2, Lisa Hanney 2, Ardyn Tettmar) vs Metal Door Ltd 4 (Charlotte Hodgson 3, Natali Mangos); Exhibition games: Caithness Marketing 3 vs Harry Bowes 0; Metal Door 5 vs Merry Maids 0. **PEEWEE:** William Lee-Chartered Accountant 0 vs Pace Savings & Credit Union 0; Schollen and Company 1 (Pollyanna Pong) vs Radical Stunts 1 (Melanie Carlin). **BANTAM:** Pronto Automotive 3 (Samantha Burt 2, Kristina Tarascio) vs Unionville Motors 0; Tim Hortons Stouffville 3 (Corina Schickedanz, Kathryn Feltis, Claire Schickedanz) vs ForeHeart.com 2 (Tracy Wong, Rachel Laird). **MIDGET:** Schickedanz Bros 3 (Andrea Papis, Laura Wadsworth, Stacey Lockie) vs Lion's Club of Stouffville 2 (Lauren Gainsbrook 2); Shopper's Drug Mart 1 (Krystal Kennedy) vs Moller Insurance 1 (Taylor Whittamore). For standings, go to www.smgha.com

Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor

BANTAM
MARCH 2: Fairgate Homes 4 (Patrick Tapiero - shutout, Casey Todd 2, Steven Aceti, Shawn Zarudny) vs Royal Legion 0; Moller Insurance 4 (Ryan Pontone 2, Cole Fullerton, Braydon Pettifer) vs Todd Construction 1 (Mark Whittinghall).

PLAYOFF STANDINGS OF MARCH 2

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS
Fairgate Homes	2	0	0	4
Moller Insurance	1	1	0	2
Pace Savings	1	0	0	2
Kall Plumbing	1	0	0	2
Packpro Systems	0	0	1	1
Todd Construction	0	1	1	1
Metro Waste	0	1	0	0
Royal Legion	0	2	0	0

Stouffville Churches Welcome You

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
13660 Ninth Line N.
(905) 642-4414
Dr. John B. Howarth, Pastor-teacher
Sunday, March 13th, 2005
SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:30 am
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 AM
"THE WORD AT WORK IN WITNESSING"
ROMANS 10:14-17
6:30 EVENING SERVICE
The Acts of The Holy Spirit
Everyone Welcome

STOUFFVILLE'S LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH
6273 Main Street
Lighthouse Baptist Church invites you to join us.
Sunday @ 10:00 am
Bible class for all ages
11:00 am - Morning Service
2:00 pm - Afternoon Service
Thursday @ 7:00 pm
Bible Study and Prayer
You are invited to a concert with singer Kevin Pauls on Wednesday, March 16th @ 7:00 pm
Sponsored by World Vision
\$10.00 at the door
905-640-2911
visit us at www.lbc.on.ca
"Come grow with us"
"The difference is worth the distance"

Springvale Baptist Church
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
905-887-5651
www.springvale.org
Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton
Student Ministries: Jay Sandiford
Worship & Music: Heather Thornton
Children's Ministries: Sharon Russell
Counselling Services: Karla Kamerman
Celebration Service
March 13th, 2005
9:45 am
Pastor Bill Thornton
Message Series
"The Gospel of John"
11:11 am
Sunday School for All Ages

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
34 Church St. N. 905-640-1163
Worship Minister: Rev. Robert Nightingale
Rev. Dianne Graves
stouffvilleuc@bellnet.ca
SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2005
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Baby Fold & Children's Worship & Youth Spirit
EVERYONE WELCOME

Parkview Village
12184 Ninth Line South, Stouffville
Sunday March 13th, 2005
Father Leslie Tamas
St. Marks Roman Catholic Church
7:00 p.m. Village Auditorium

Welcome to...
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Kathryn Strachan, Minister
6432 Main St. Stouffville
905-640-3151
Fax 905-640-1946
Sunday, March 13th, 2005
Worship Service
10:30 am
Church School for All Ages
Monday March 14th
Newsletter
information deadline
'A Friendly Family Church'

THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH
254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville
The Rev. Robert A. Shields
(905) 640-1461
Sunday, March 13, 2005
8:00 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Choral Eucharist
Church School & Nursery provided
Wednesday March 16, 2005
Come and join us for a Lenten Supper between 5 & 7 pm
You're also welcome to join us at 7:30 for a Lenten Study
e-mail: admin@stouffvilleanglican.ca
website: www3.sympatico.ca/christchurch.stouffville
Everyone Welcome!

STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
6853 Main St., Stouffville
Sunday March 13th, 2005
10:00 am Morning Worship
Part 2 of Series
"The Road to Calvary"
"Figs, Faith and Forgiveness"
Pastor Hilsden will be speaking
Kids Club on Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. for kids ages 4 - 12 years old.
Call Church at 905-640-5696 for information
Rev. Paul Hilsden Senior Pastor

ST. MARK'S Catholic Church
345 Glad Park Ave., Stouffville
905-640-6954
Sunday Masses
Saturday at 5pm
Sunday at 9 am & 11 am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7:30 pm

To Advertise your place of Worship
Contact
Sarah Wilson
905 294-2200
ext 3310