

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

## SPORTS

# Teacher Barclay skates off with 2005 Sports Person of Year award

*Stouffville resident to receive honour during Strawberry Festival*

BY JIM THOMAS  
Correspondent

A figure skating coach 40 years. Such is the enviable record established by Jean Barclay.

In March, the 60-year-old Stouffville mother of two and grandmother of two, decided she would hang 'em up at the conclusion of the current season.

Sort of.

She's agreed to fill in from time to time should any member of the Stouffville club's coaching staff become ill. However, realizing an end of an era was at hand, the executive honoured its valued instructor during an awards presentation gala held recently. In addition to a beautifully engraved symbol of the 2010 Olympics, Barclay received a DVD covering her 53 years spent on skates.

"It's a keepsake I'll cherish all my life," Barclay said. Club president Anne Scott made the presentation.

The inscription on the Olympic emblem read: "With sincere appreciation for your inspiration and life-long dedication to skating."

She'll be honoured again next week as Whitchurch-Stouffville's Sports Person of the Year for 2005. The award, sponsored by the Sun-Tribune, will be presented Thursday night during opening ceremonies of the Strawberry Festival in Memorial Park.

## BEGAN SKATING AT AGE SEVEN

Commencing her skating career when she was seven years old, the former Jean Winterstein participated in her first spring carnival in 1951. The location was the old arena on Park Drive, commonly referred to as 'the barn'.

During those formative years, other skaters she recalls were Jocelyn and Barbara Button, Lynda Nolan and Donna-Marie Lehman.

One of the first club presidents was Lionel Foord, ably assisted by Tommy Farr and her own father, Bruce.

"The carnival was always a highlight," Barclay remembers, "I'll never forget the people who pitched in and



**JEAN BARCLAY:** Was involved in figure skating as a coach for 40 years with the Stouffville Figure Skating Club.

made it happen."

Names that come to mind include Walt and Aurelia Smith; Jim and Doreen Brown and Bun and Dixie Sellers.

Many carnival props were manufactured in Walt Smith's welding shop on Market Street, says Barclay.

The arena manager was Ken Laushway. Christine Kennedy was her first instructor.

*'Figure skating is a sport that teaches self-motivation, dedication and self-discipline.'*

"It was cold, really cold," remembers Barclay, "Vi Rennie, Betty Grove and Mary Moffat, all snack bar employees, kept me warm with hot chocolate."

She describes later rink managers, Telf Rennie and Joe Lewis as "awesome".

"They couldn't do enough for me," she says.

They even loaned her an arena key so she could participate in early-morning workouts before going to school. On many occasions, she would crawl out of bed at 5:30 a.m.

Even at an early age, Barclay's parents saw in their daughter a talent worth developing. They supported her at every turn, making it possible for her to attend summer skating school in Niagara Falls under the watchful eye of coach Wally Distelmeyer.

In the spring and fall, she skated

at Weston, aided by Osborne Coulson and Margaret Hyland.

Thanks to the co-operation of Summitview School principal Lorne Boadway and teachers Keith Sutherland and Wilf Morley, she was permitted to attend classes only four days a week.

Her idol was Olympic champion Barbara Ann Scott.

When, during the early 1950s, the Oshawa arena was destroyed by fire, club members from there came to Stouffville, including the incomparable Don Jackson. Jackson, the first Olympic skater to complete a triple Lutz, never forgot this favour. He participated in carnivals here on several occasions.

## AUDITIONED FOR ICE FOLLIES

In 1962, following high school, Barclay auditioned for Ice Follies and was accepted.

But it wasn't until later an opening became available. By then, she was working full-time with Bell Canada and had discovered Laurie Barclay, the love of her life. She refused to give up two for one, a decision she doesn't regret.

It was Norma Wilkes, Stouffville Figure Skating Club president in 1964, who welcomed Barclay as a coach. By then, she'd completed her seventh figure, one short of a gold.

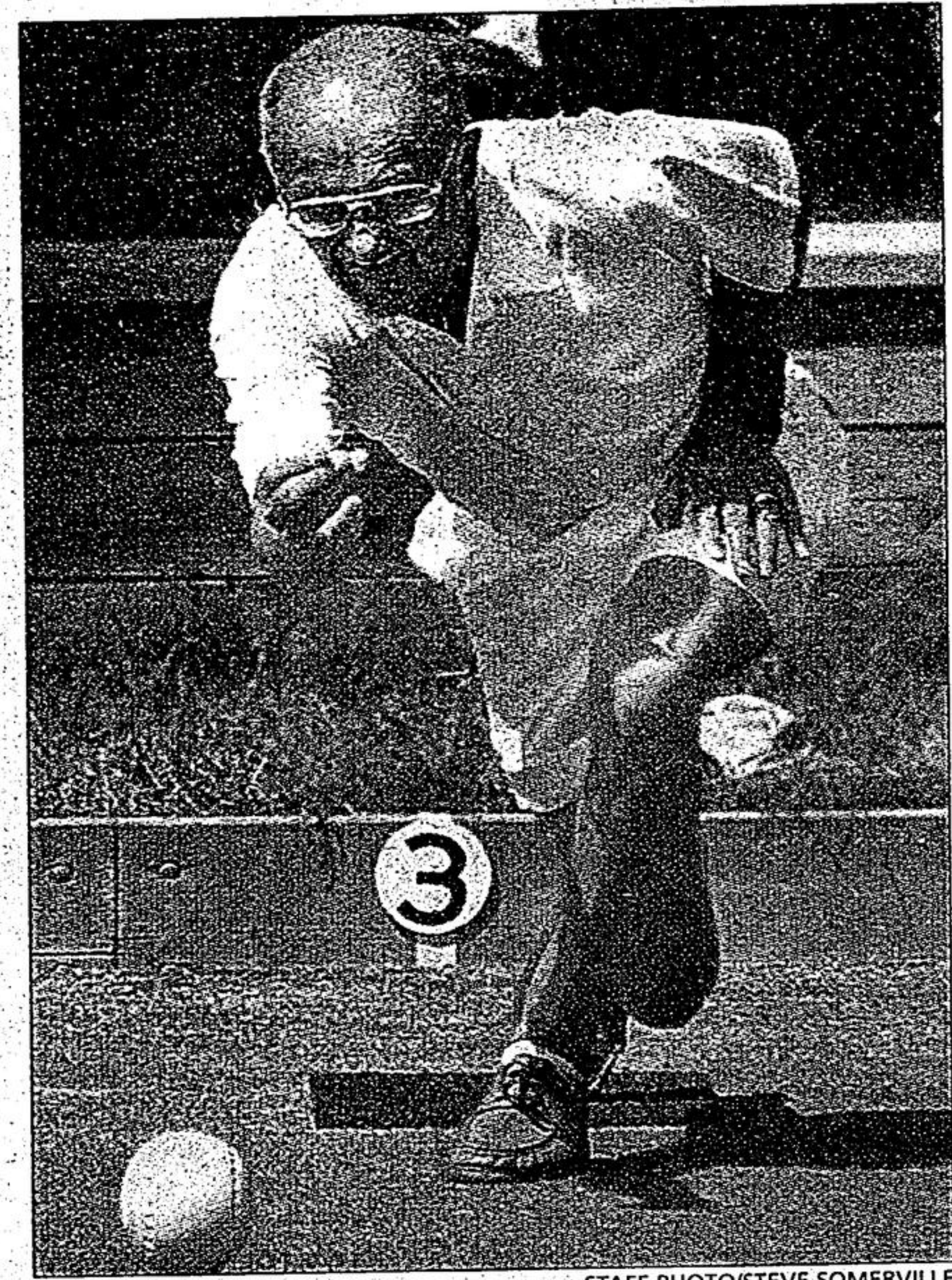
She accepted and, except for the birth of son Steven and daughter Stephanie, has been with the organization ever since — a period of 40 years.

During her long career, Barclay's skills as a skater have always been in demand including places like Orangeville, Barrie and Whitby. She auditioned for the Ice Follies at Maple Leaf Gardens and completed tests at the grandiose Toronto Granite Club. Barclay admits she is and always will be an ardent fan of the sport.

"It was a big part of my world," she says, "and I loved it."

She still does, attending the world championships at B.C. Place, Vancouver, in 2001 and the Canadians in London last year. She's already made arrangements to attend the Canadians at Ottawa in 2006.

"Figure skating is a sport that teaches self-motivation, dedication and self-discipline," she said.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

## Special delivery

Al Badgery of the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club delivers his ball towards the jack at the recent York Region 55+ Summer Games lawn bowling competition at the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club. Badgery's team, which included Elmer Farthing and Ron Gibson finished second. Winning the gold medal was the Newmarket Lawn Bowling Club trio of Phillip Long, Ruth Leach and Joyce Gunter. The bronze medal was claimed by the Newmarket Lawn Bowling Club team of Bob Attridge, Danielle Benmergui and Blanche Brule. For further results of other events, see Sportsboard on page 31.

## Sadekar second in BMO golf event

Nisha Sadekar carded a two-round 147 to end up in a five-way tie for second place in the BMO Financial Group Canadian Women's Tour event at Club de golf Rivermead in Gatineau, Que. Tuesday.

The 24-year-old Stouffville resident carded a two-over par 74 in Monday's first round and had a 73 on the final day on the 6,087-yard, par 72 course.

She was just two strokes behind tournament winner Linda Shephard of Brighton, who carded a two-round 145 (74-71).

Also tied with Sadekar were Courtney Reno of Grosse Ile, Mich., Jan Dowling of Bradford and Big Break III TV fame, Leila Chartrand of Victoria, B.C. and Marie-Josée Rouleau of St-Lambert, Quebec.

For her efforts, Sadekar pocketed \$2,098.

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