

Coaches mark 50th year

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skates, regularly enjoying the sport at the old Strathcona Rink on Christie Street. At age 19, he made the switch from rollers to blades.

Margaret (Wilson) Hyland, 84, is also a Toronto native. She vividly recalls fitting into her brother's hand-me-down hockey skates before convincing her mother she wanted to cut fancy figures.

Bruce and Margaret met at what was then the Toronto Skating Club. They were married Aug. 10, 1957, a fifty-year milestone celebrated recently at the Ballantrae recreation centre. Otto and Maria Jelinek were among the 150 guests in attendance, flying in from Prague, in the Czech Republic, where they now reside.

The surprise event was organized by daughter and son-in-law, Ron and Jacqui Pugh of Ballantrae, assisted by sons and daughters-in-law, Douglas and Elizabeth Hyland of Lakeland, Fla., and Michael and Cecilia Hyland of California. A DVD, cover-

ing the Hylands' half-century of life on ice was prepared by grandson Christopher Pugh.

Daughter Jacqui, along with Jean Barclay, were, for many years, co-instructors at the Stouffville Figure Skating Club. Jean and husband Lawrence were also guests.

The Hylands come by their

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skate coaching skills honestly. They were Canadian dance champions in 1947. Margaret was also a Canadian junior pairs champion.

Together, they've spent the past 50 years in coaching roles.

At Agincourt's Tam O'Shanter, Bruce organized the largest hockey school in the world. Notable partici-

pants included Frank and Peter Mahovich, Kent Douglas, Paul Henderson and Eddie Shack. The school also hosted as many as 300 live-in children a week with both Mr. and Mrs. Hyland serving as coaches.

When the arena was destroyed by fire in 1972, Bruce moved his operation to the new Hylands Ice Skating Centre, now Centre Ice, in North York.

Mr. Hyland was the first to create power skating for hockey players, enrolling more than 3,000 boys and girls annually in the course. He was a founder of the Professional Skating Association of Canada and later held the position of national president.

The Hylands conceived and produced skating shows around the world including Japan, China, Montreal and Hawaii. They also organized many charity skates across Canada and the United States.

An occasion neither will forget occurred at the official opening of Toronto's Air Canada Centre, when both were formally introduced as the legends of Canadian skating. A crowd of 20,000 roared approval.

Mr and Mrs Hyland moved from Clearwater, Florida, to Whitchurch-Stouffville in 2001.

"We'd heard of Stouffville but not Ballantrae," Bruce said. "We love it here."

"How could I ever forget the old Stouffville Arena (in Memorial Park)," he added, "I always froze to death."

While their skates are retired, the Hylands remain active during the summer, serving as coaches and consultants at the Richmond Training Centre in Richmond Hill.

They also produce winter shows in Clearwater.



Ballantrae's Bruce and Margaret Hyland during their 50-year career teaching skating.

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 by Lorraine Kennedy Vosu
 Clinical Director/Owner
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DIGITAL NOISE REDUCTION

While digital noise reduction (DNR) has become a standard feature in many new hearing instruments over the past few years, evidence of its value has largely remained anecdotal. That is, many wearers have attested to DNR's ability to improve speech understanding, reduce irritating background noise, and/or render the hearing experience more comfortable, however, no scientific study has ever confirmed this. Now, a small study that involved adults in everyday listening situations shows that most preferred the DNR feature. In fact, 73.3 percent of the participants in the study preferred to use their hearing instrument with the DNR setting "on" while only 19 percent preferred it turned "off". This result gives consumers more reason to consider the value of digital noise reduction.

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P.S. Curiously, the majority of people in the aforementioned study who preferred digital noise reduction used it the most in low-noise environments more than in very noisy environments.

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