

Marilynn Minaker

Ambassador for Christ

By Jim Thomas
STOUFFVILLE - It was Thursday afternoon, almost 5 p.m., and only a half-dozen dedicated student athletes were still working out in separated gymnasiums at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School.

"You'll see", I replied. And he did. For moments later she was wheeling her elastic-like form up and over the high bars with so little effort, the lad, and others gathered around, were content merely to stand and stare.

They spotted the camera and immediately wondered what individual accomplishment had prompted the unannounced visit.

Marilynn Minaker, now 22, is a star. And while her name isn't as common to the Canadian sports world as a Gordie Howe, a Russ Jackson or a Bobby Orr, her accomplishments in the field of gymnastics, remains unchallenged.

They were soon to find out, for minutes later, a lovely young girl, accompanied by her parents, slipped through a side entrance and into the auditorium. "I'm Marilynn Minaker", she said, "sorry I'm late".

But for Marilynn, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Howard Minaker, Alanbury Crescent, Scarborough, the applause, the cheers, the ribbons and the trophies are only memories.

"Marilynn who?" questioned a Grade Niner, standing close by, "what does she do?"

She has her sights set on other goals, even more challenging than endeavors now past. She's a leader in a growing youth program at the Bethel Assembly of God, a denomination that meets every Sunday morning and evening in the Stouffville Masonic Hall.

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And she fairly bubbles with enthusiasm and excitement when talking about it.

It was during the 1968 Olympics in Mexico, recalls Marilynn, I received a telegram from our Member of Parliament. It read: "Good luck, Marilynn, Ambassador for Canada." Later, she received a telegram from her church. It

read: "Good luck, Marilynn, Ambassador for Christ". "I realized then and there, there was something missing in my life".

To give of herself completely wasn't easy, Marilynn now admits. "There I was, Marilynn Minaker, the big super star. Somehow, it didn't seem like the 'in thing' to be a Christian athlete. But it was all or nothing. The results have been fantastic".

Marilynn's greatest joy comes from working with young people, even younger than herself. "Some kids are all 'messed up'", she says, "they're missing something and they know it, it's an emptiness that only God can fill".

Although a member of the Pentecostal faith, she declines to stress this point. "The denomination is not important", she insists. "Kid today are tired of structure". She claims the same re-birth can occur in a Roman Catholic, a Baptist or a Presbyterian.

But like her parents, Marilynn is proud of her church's growth in Stouffville. Ultimately, they hope to have a sanctuary they can call their own.

Of her rise to athletic fame, Marilynn looks on it only as a means to an end.

"The only thing I'm interested in now is working for the Lord and working with kids. They're the greatest".



Twenty-one year old Marilynn Minaker rose to the heights of stardom as one of Canada's top female gymnasts. Now, instead of concentrating on winning medals, she's dedicated to winning young people to Christ. Marilynn, along with her parents and brother Ken, are active in the Bethel Assembly of God, that holds services every Sunday, in the Stouffville Masonic Hall. —Jas. Thomas.

Markham Town Council hedges on firm anti-airport policy

MARKHAM - Several efforts to force Markham Council to take a stand on the airport issue, made during a meeting March 28, met with consistent evasion.

About 25 people, belonging to various groups opposing the airport, attended. The first attack was made by Otto Maxfield.

"We have built up our property, put all we have into it - this was our security," he said.

Mr. Maxfield predicted "absolute chaos" if plans are allowed to proceed, and urged Council to take some action to help residents.

Mayor Tony Roman claimed the municipality, like the residents, is "groping in the dark". He placed responsibility squarely on the federal and provincial governments, and said there is very little the Town can do.

"We're creatures of the province," the Mayor said.

He reminded the delegation that Markham has already made a number of moves to ease the situation, including a demand that compensation be paid to people living in the noise zone.

Mrs. Natalie Kalleberg was not satisfied with this response.

"Are you prepared to represent the people of Markham if they unite to oppose the airport?" she demanded. Mayor Roman hedged, saying Council would "con-

sider any proposals brought before us."

Considerable discussion followed, revolving around the lack of information from senior governments. Mr. Maxfield returned to the attack. "I would like to have one of you stand up and state your position," he said, "We are not being dealt with honestly by anybody."

Councillor Norm Tyndall, whose Ward is almost completely under the land freeze, reminded the delegation he has issued a statement describing his personal opposition to the airport.

Councillor James Jongeneel defended Council's record, saying he believed Council has already gone "much further than the general feeling seems to warrant, so far."

Mayor Roman made several attempts to terminate discussion, but was not successful. Bill Merklinger, a resident of the 7th Concession, attacked Prime Minister Trudeau's recent statement.

"Mr. Trudeau is a garter snake, he speaks with a forked tongue," said Mr. Merklinger.

"Our personal grievances don't mean a thing," he continued, "We have to get together in thousands."

Obviously alarmed at the prospect, Mayor Roman replied that it would do no good to bring 1,000 people to a Council meeting. The possibility of violent action was

brought up by Tony Baggio, R. R. 1 Stouffville. Mayor Roman hastily interrupted him, but Mr. Baggio pressed on.

"Violence does work, sometimes," he said, although indicating he would not completely favor such an approach. "They are taking land from us for personal profit - it's worse than communism."

Discussion several times threatened to get out of control, and Mayor Roman only succeeded in terminating the meeting after an hour of increasingly bitter debate. He predicted that studies will be

made on the site, and promised that Markham will do its best to participate in these reviews. The delegation finally left, but did not appear satisfied; animated arguments were conducted in the hall outside.

Council turned to a study of tenders for calcium chloride and gravel.

Buy a daffodil
Volunteers of the Stouffville Branch, Canadian Cancer Society, will be selling daffodils, Saturday. A door-to-door campaign will also be conducted with an objective of \$16,000.



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Question auto 'frills'

STOUFFVILLE - Stouffville Council plans to exchange the municipality's ailing 1965 Pontiac, for something out of the showroom.

But its optional equipment, that some might consider as 'frills' was questioned when the issue came up for discussion, recently.

For example, Mayor Ken Laushway wondered why a new vehicle was needed at all, suggesting that perhaps a good used one might do just as

well. Councillor Merlyn Baker replied only that in the committee's opinion, a new one would be better.

Councillor Betty vanNostrand questioned the need for automatic transmission, claiming the manual gearbox as 'superior'. Councillor Herb Simpson said that

come trade-in time, the car's value was higher with automatic rather than manual. Mr. Simpson, however, said he had no use for belted tires.

In spite of the queries, councillor Baker's resolution to purchase a 1972 model, was passed, automatic transmission, belted tires, and all.

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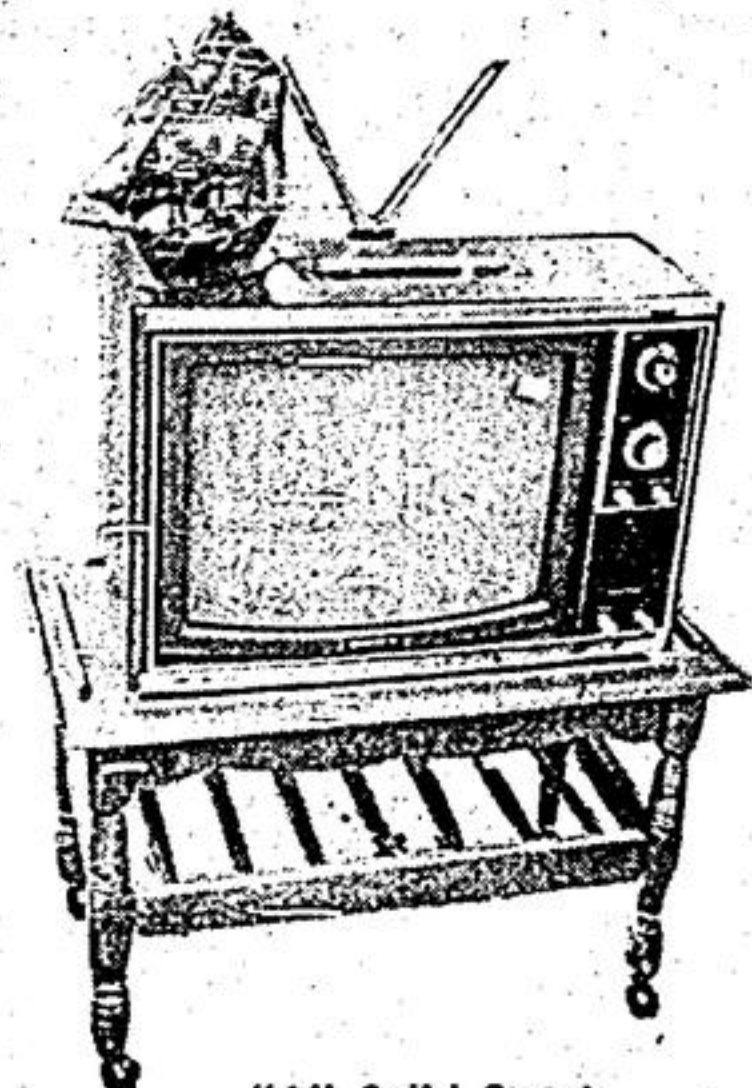
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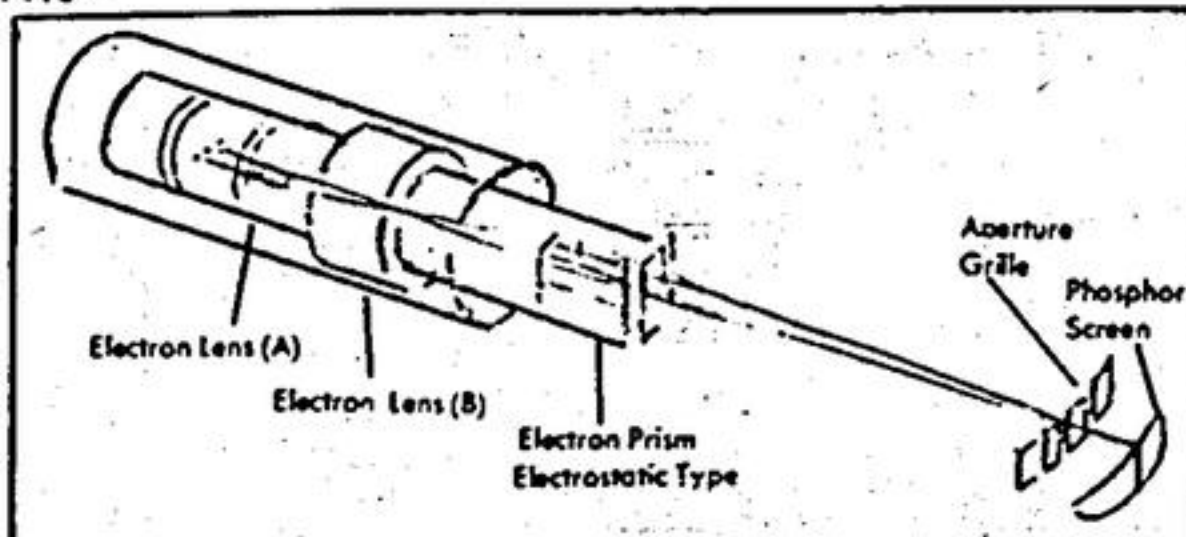
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