

Skaters make mother's day 'very emotional'

May 11 was Mother's Day. And no Whitchurch-Stouffville mother could have been prouder or happier than Anita Cargill after watching her 16-year-old daughter perform in this year's 47th semi-annual Stouffville Ice Show.

"It was very emotional. I was teary-eyed," says Anita. While the co-host's attention was undeniably focused on Shawna, it was the event's wider spectrum that also captured her concentration.

"It was wonderful to see how far all skaters had come since the start of the season," she enthused.

Born in Stouffville, one of four in the family of Joseph and Frances te Bogt, Anita and husband Bryan caught figure skating fever when Shawna, at the tender age of four did her initial balancing act on the blades. Now, a Grade 9 student attending St. Brother Andre High School in Markham, she's never looked back.

"At first she didn't like it," her mother remembers, "but we told her she had to at least complete one season. She now loves it."

A coveted gold medal, symbolic

of competition excellence, gilds her bedroom.

At three performances, one on Friday and two on Saturday, Shawna shared several numbers plus a solo. In total, 180 skaters, ranging in age from three to 18 took part.

Anita honestly admits her daughter's early-age skating involvements were not carbon copies of her own experiences. "I remember my mom taking me down to the old arena, the 'barn' as they used to call it but all I could do was hang onto the boards." Then, five years ago, she joined the club's adult group, prompting an emergence of skills that had been absent as a child. "I was determined to improve and I did," she said.

But other doors opened.

Before joining the club executive, she assisted as an ice show dressing room mom and later in 2008, 2011 and 2012 held the position of club registrar. During the season of 2012-2013 she served as president. Anita and close friend Lesley Sutton co-chaired last weekend's show. She's currently a liaison with the coaches. In addition, she volunteered at registration evenings for skating programs Sept. 5 to 19; registration for the ice

show and served as a captain on test day.

When club ice time was being allocated, Anita attended several user-group meetings.

She's been nominated by Lesley for the 2013-2014 Skate Canada volunteer award.

Says Ms Sutton: "Anita was instrumental in implementing the new Canskate Program and has closely supervised its operation to ensure its success. She has made a significant contribution to the



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

growth and development of the club within the community, promoting figure skating for all levels and ages. Her personal commitment is evidenced by the many hours she's contributed and the efforts she's provided all projects with which she's been involved including hiring staff; resolving parental concerns and developing a volunteer base."

"Anita's contributions are endless," says Lesley, "the success of the club in recent years can be directly credited to her. She's an excellent representative of the Stouffville Figure Skating Club and the Skate Canada organization."

While modest concerning personal achievements, Anita beams with delight regarding Shawna's accomplishments. Including lessons under the watchful eye of instructor Lynda Khanna, Shawna spends five hours each week on skates. She also assists with two Canskate age groups.

Other club coaches include: Hans and Judy Ahlgren; Janet Williams, Mandy Gibson, Natalie Antonacci, Troy Hockley, Brett Schrader and Jessie To.

Anita explains that with 425 skaters involved, the club's future

looks exceptionally bright. This prospect, she says, is enhanced by the numbers of new members moving into executive positions.

"It's great to have parents of young children grow with the club," she states, "new blood introduces innovative ideas and productive opinions."

The sport is a great confidence builder. But more importantly, she notes, it creates in a boy or girl the ability to cope with disappointments as well as enjoyments.

"One doesn't always win," she said.

Why not an ice show every year? Anita was asked. The time, she says, close to 10 months of preparation. And the cost, about \$45,000.

Anita explains that for the majority of skaters, careers conclude after they complete high school and go on to university. "Taking part in a carnival is a highlight in every skater's life," she claims.

So what does the future hold for Shawna? A teacher, responds Anita - in a classroom, in an arena, maybe in both.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.

Who do you think should be Whitchurch-Stouffville's 2014 Citizen of the Year?

Nominations are open for this year's award.

We are looking for a person who:

- makes our community a better place to live, work and play
- is involved to benefit more than his or her family or business
- sets a positive example for others

DEADLINE JUNE 7, 2014

Nominations should include nominee's detailed resume and letters of support.

e-mail: jmason@yrmg.com

Mail or hand deliver to:

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

6290 Main St.

Stouffville, Ont.

L4A 1G7

Attention: Jim Mason

For more information call **905-640-2612 ext. 23**

Award to be presented during the opening of the
30th Annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

The (Draft) Living City Policies for Planning and Development in the Watersheds of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

**Black Creek Pioneer Village, Visitor's Centre, Weston Room B
1000 Murray Ross Parkway, Toronto | 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Short presentations at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Over the last year, TRCA has been consulting with many partners and stakeholders on the draft Living City Policies. TRCA invites the public to learn about the final draft of this policy document. When approved in Fall 2014, the document will guide the implementation of TRCA's legislated and delegated roles and responsibilities in the planning and development approvals process.

For further information, please visit our website www.trca.on.ca/LCP or contact: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Phone (416) 661-6600, ext. 5221 or 5271

