

World class skater calls Mississauga home

By STEPHANIE INNES
Staff Reporter

Paul Buz
St.

Oct. 31-90 MN



Figure skater Barbara Underhill, 27, recently moved to east Mississauga. The reigning world professional pairs champion says she's glad to be living near the airport since most of her year is spent travelling to North American cities for skating exhibitions.

Although figure skater Barbara Underhill is calling Mississauga home these days, don't expect to see her around town in the next few months.

Underhill, who in 1984 gave Canada its first world figure skating pairs title in 22 years, is still skating with partner Paul Martini and will spend most of this year on the road between world professional competitions and exhibition stops around the globe.

Skating to the song *It had to be you* at a North York arena last week, Underhill, 27, and Martini, 29, looked powerful and confident, executing double throws, lifts and death spirals with the same finesse that during their amateur career earned five straight Canadian crowns, nine international titles, and induction into both the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame and the Canadian Olympic Amateur Hall of Fame.

Since turning professional, the pairs team has won five world professional pairs titles, spent three years with the *Ice Capades*, and the last two years as freelance show skaters. Their current project is putting together routines for a production entitled *Skating II* which will feature among a cast of world champion skaters Olympic titlists Katarina Witt and Brian Boitano.

This November they will tour eight North American cities with the production before going on to professional competitions in Washington, Kitchener, Barcelona and Orlando. Then it will be back on tour with *Skating II*, which will wind up its schedule at

Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens on January 20.

From May 9 to June 12, Underhill and Martini will travel to a different city everyday as part of the *Tour of Champions*. The tour, normally reserved for world amateur medal winners, will this year add professional skaters to the roster.

After June, Underhill says she's not certain of the pair's schedule, but she knows that in August skating will definitely take a back seat to her wedding when she will marry Mississauga businessman Richard Gaetz.

Underhill and Gaetz, 32, met in August 1989 at a wedding and got engaged one year later. They have also formed a business alliance with one another as co-owners of the Jet North bar and restaurant in Collingwood.

"It (the restaurant) looks over Georgian Bay, and it's just gorgeous up there," says Underhill, who spends as many weekends as she can at her Collingwood condominium.

The restaurant business and work-outs at the Fitness Institute near her Mississauga East home help provide Underhill with diversions from her heavy figure skating schedule.

"We are still practising everyday, about three or four hours," says Underhill. "I'm not sure how long we will keep this up, and you can't help thinking about the future."

Right now, however, it's the immediate future Underhill is thinking about.

Peel
Biog.
Book

The Mississauga News - Oc

October 31, 1990 MN

UNDERHILL,
Barbara