

# The JILL JACOBSON MEMORIAL AWARD for the Most Improved Skater

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When Linda Jill Jacobson started competitive skating, the jumps proved to be especially challenging for her. But Jill didn't give up, according to Phyllis McNally, National Judge, and Maureen Hitman Calder, former Coach at the Lethbridge Figure Skating Club.

"It was willpower, hard work, and a good grounding in the basics from her mother that made the difference," recalls Maureen. "There was a lot of repetition and hard work ... about 25 hours a week ... She was beginning to make her mark as a competitive skater at the higher levels."

Jill died tragically on November 21, 1981 when fire swept through the home where Jill, her mother Sonja, and her brother Ronald Jr., were asleep. Jill is survived by her father, Ron Jacobson and her older brother, John.

Born in 1965, Jill followed in the footsteps of her mother Sonja, a world class figure skater. Though Jill was not a natural athlete, her hard work and determination helped her attain her 7<sup>th</sup> Figure Test, Junior Silver Free Skate Test, and Novice Competitive Test. At the time of her death, she was a competitive skater who was working on her Gold Free Skate and Dance tests.

"She was someone good to have around," recalls friend Jennifer Tait. "Jill was very positive. We worked well together. She accepted her faults and emphasized the positive."

Talented in other area, Jill was an honour student in Grade 11 at Lethbridge Collegiate Institute. Jill loved music. A member of The Anne Campbell Junior Choir and the Southminster Bell Ringers, Jill also played piano. As well, she enjoyed a wide range of sports.

The Jill Jacobson Memorial Award for the Most Improved Skater is designed to honour the most improved Competitive Skater at the Lethbridge Skating Club each year.

## Criteria:

1. The Jill Jacobson Memorial Award for the Most Improved Skater symbolized by a trophy and a replica shall be awarded annually to the most improved competitive skater of the Club that year.
2. Other criteria in selection of eligible candidates shall include:
  - A competitive skater in any category level who represents the ideals of high standards of performance, service and excellence in all levels of skating including competitiveness and good sportsmanship. This skater, as a result of participation in International and/or Skate Canada approved tests and competitions, will have shown such marked improvement in skating during that year so as to be worthy of recognition..
  - Achievement and advancement in Skate Canada Tests and in Skate Canada Competitions.
  - Good personal working attitudes
  - Regard may also be had to the standards established by Jill Jacobson and her known wishes on behalf of the Club and its skaters.
3. The recipient shall be named by the Skating Club on the selection made by the Advisory Committee. Complete criteria may be obtained from the Lethbridge Skating Club.