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## OUR ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

### **JoJo Starbuck takes a seat at the judges' table at Seacoast Skating with the Stars**



PORTSMOUTH — JoJo Starbuck, two-time member of the United State Figure Skating Team for the Winter Olympics, will help judge Seacoast Skating with the Stars at 2 p.m. Saturday Feb. 8, 2020 at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond.

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She will be joined by U.S. Figure Skating Pairs Champion Sheryl Frank, and last year's Seacoast Skating with the Stars champion, Sean McGrimley, a physical education teacher at Little Harbor School in Portsmouth.

The show, following the format of television's "Dancing with the Stars," pairs six local volunteers with professional skaters to perform a brief routine for the panel of judges.

As in previous years, the show also features performances by Ice Dance International professional skaters, including Ian Lorello, Klabera Komini, Rohene Ward, Neill Shelton, Lara Shelton, Kseniya Ponomaryova, Alissa Czisny and Collin Brubaker.

Starbuck, with her childhood skating partner, Ken Shelley, made skating history in 1968 when the two became the youngest pairs team America had sent to the Olympic Games. That was followed by victories in the U.S. Pairs Championships in 1970, 1971 and 1972. They won the bronze medal at the World Championships in 1971 and 1972. In 1994, they were inducted into the United States Figure Skating Hall of Fame. Starbuck and Shelley turned professional in 1972, headlining "Ice Capades" for four years. In addition to designing choreography for World and Olympic skaters, Starbuck conducts skating workshops around the world, has performed in two feature films, and published her autobiography, "JoJo Starbuck."

Franks, competing with Michael Botticelli, earned the bronze medal at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships four consecutive times, won the Eastern U.S. Pairs Championship and finished seventh at the 1980 Winter Olympic Games.

Spectators will can weigh in on this year's winning pair. Tickets for rink-side viewing include public skating after the show. For details, go to [strawberrybanke.org](http://strawberrybanke.org).

### **Skater is Living the Disney Dream**

Skating is in the family genes. Here's the next generation from our Ice Capades family. Kyle Shropshire, son of Zane Shropshire is now appearing in Disney on Ice.



Disney on Ice skater Kyle Shropshire is living his Disney dream.

As “Disney on Ice presents Worlds of Enchantment” makes its way across the country, the Algonquin, Ill. resident gets to play his favorite Disney character, Woody from “Toy Story.”

In a phone interview, Shropshire explained his affinity for “Toy Story” goes way back to his childhood. When he was about 6 years old, he saw the film and he subsequently was given a Woody doll and a Buzz Lightyear doll.

What was it about the toy cowboy that Shropshire enjoyed?



“For me, I liked how he was always a leader. He was smart and brave,” said Shropshire. The Disney on Ice skater also liked how Woody always made it back to Andy’s house. And he always looked out for his friends.

If Shropshire had to pick another Disney character other than Woody as his favorite, he said it would be difficult. “I really genuinely like Woody.”

However, when pressed, Shropshire didn’t veer too far from the “Toy Story” path. He said his favorite character other than Woody is Woody’s partner-in-“Toy Story”-crime, Buzz.

In a way, as a skater, Shropshire is taking up the family business.

Shropshire’s mother, Zane, who comes from Connecticut originally, grew up as a skater. At one time, she also skated with the Ice Capades. Shropshire himself started skating at 2.

Given his mother’s career path, Shropshire said, “My sister and I lived at the rink.” And given the opportunity, he made his way out on the ice and “I loved it.”

Shropshire said he likes skating because of the family connection to the activity. However, he said, he also liked skating because it’s “unique to a lot of sports.”

“It’s really athletic,” he said. But, it’s also a performance.

When you watch a skater on television, Shropshire said he/ she makes it look so easy. However, a lot of time and effort takes place off camera. “There’s always something to learn,” said Shropshire.

Additionally, Shropshire said there are aspects of skating that go unnoticed to the casual observer. For example, most non-skaters are unaware of how thin the blades of a skate are.

Since the blades are so thin, to keep your balance, a number of muscle groups come into play. In addition to the leg muscles, he said, core muscles also are engaged.

“It’s a full body sport,” said Shropshire of skating.

Prior to Disney on Ice, Shropshire was a competitive skater. He was a four-time national competitor double gold medalist in moves in the field and freestyle. Besides the competitive aspect of the events, Shropshire said he liked the opportunity to connect with other male skaters, who were at his level of expertise. He also appreciated the pressure of performing before judges, which kept pushing him to get better.

As a skater for Disney on Ice, Shropshire said there is a different kind of pressure, albeit a fun kind. There is the pressure to please an audience, “making the kids laugh and smile.”

“It makes it fun for me,” said Shropshire.

Plus, he said, he gets to play Woody.

Disney on Ice, said Shropshire, is perfect family entertainment because it has “a little something for everyone.”

First of all, he said there are the characters from favorite films such as “Toy Story III,” “Little Mermaid,” “Cars,” and “Frozen.”

Secondly, he said, “We have great effects.”

Additionally, Shropshire said, “(We have) all of your favorite music and songs you can sing along to.”

And “Disney on Ice presents Worlds of Enchantment” is a show that brings audiences a lot of joy,” said Shropshire.

## **Video of the Month**

A 1984 World’s moment with our very own Underhill & Martini



[Click here to watch their winning program](#)



**Don't forget to watch 2020 World's  
beginning March 18<sup>th</sup> from Montreal.**

## **Inspiration of the Month**

### **Donna Good (Marsden) Campbell**

A born athlete from Burnaby, CB, Canada's Donna Good-Campbell is still a force in the field of figure skating today, as a coach and competitor at the age of 78. Donna has been part of the Ice Capades West Company in 1957 and 1958, and has spent her life coaching, both at home in Canada as well as in Argentina.

What has become your passion? Recently the group of skaters I met up with, some still working, and some of us retired, we decided to compete in some adult competitions. I decided to go for it and entered the Adult Bronze Interpretive Group V. This group was aged 56-80 yr. age group. I was the oldest competitor in the Skate Canada Super Series Final at age 77, also after having a total hip replacement. I was just recovering from the hip at the last reunion, but I did to the Street Dance?



A 2018 Update: At the Super Series Skate Canada, I won a Bronze Medal, as well as a silver. I was competing against skaters 18 years younger than my 78 years at that time.

To view Donna's skating videos, go to: [www.donnagoodcampbell.com](http://www.donnagoodcampbell.com)

Donna would love to hear from you: [dgooddcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:dgooddcampbell@gmail.com)

### **Donna's 2020 Update – She's still skating**

[Click here to view Donna's latest program](#)

I recently competed in the World Winter Masters Games 2020 in Innsbruck Austria. The youngest competitor in some of the sports, skiing, for example age limit is 28 and I think for us



it was 30 yrs. of age, the youngest allowed. I skate with a group of adult ladies who call ourselves **Team Okanagan**. There are 10 of us all competing at different levels separated into age groups. I, of course, am in the most elderly group. It was quite a challenge to do this, but all the younger ones are so gung ho, and I can still skate a bit, so off I went. I'm not too big on jumping due to the two hips being replaced, and being 80 yrs. of age.

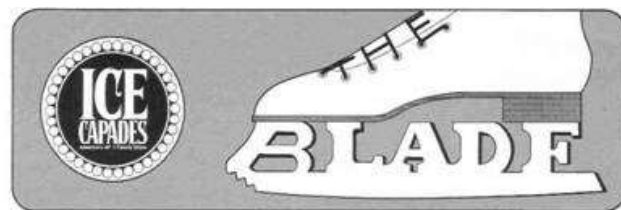
The team came home with 13 medals!!



I didn't medal because of not being able to do a qualifying jump, however, I did skate my best. I trained 3 times/week, and worked very hard to get the program together. I'm taking a bit of a rest right now, the competition ended on January 19th. It was quite an undertaking, and I actually met a girl (lady) from New Westminster who at one time trained with my old coach. So we had a few trips down memory lane. I'll enclose my skating video, and maybe send some more photos a bit later. We skated at the Olympic Arena the WWMGames are like a mini Olympics with all the sports. This is the first year that Figure Skating has been included. So there were big opening ceremonies, etc.

and they are held every 4 years.

**Congratulations to Donna and the team. You inspire us!**



The website, [www.icecapadestheblade.com](http://www.icecapadestheblade.com) has been revamped and more information has been added. It's still a work in progress. If you have something to add, please send them.

Look here for **2020 Ice Capades Reunion** information, including the list of **who's coming**

**Cast, Precision & Production Pictures** – Relive some memories.

**Rosters** – Looking for someone or remembering who you skated with in the show?

**Video links** – have been collecting skating 'You Tube' links from the early years.

**Program Covers** – we had the most beautiful covers

**Past Issues of The Blade** – just in case you missed an issue

**Past Reunion Pictures** – relive the times you attended the reunions

**In Memorium** – remembering those who have left us too soon

Check it out!

## Upcoming Events



<http://www.icetheatre.org/>

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