

Sad News

Bill Marchyshyn – Feb. 3, 2025

Bill skated with Ice Capades West Co. And was an understudy to
Billy Chapel in the 1970's.



With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of William "Bill" Marchyshyn, who left us at the age of 73. Bill was a kind and selfless soul who touched the lives of those around him with his generosity, wisdom, and unwavering love for family and nature. Bill is survived by his loving mother, Mary Marchyshyn; his three nephews, Marc (Melissa), Jamie (Jennifer), and Adam (Ainsley)—whom he cherished as his own; seven grandnieces and grandnephews, Christian, Lincoln, Karlee, Max, Laila, Brooklyn, and Jordyn; and his brother-in-law, Bill. Though he never had children of his own, his nephews were like sons to him, and he shared with them his deep appreciation for the great outdoors. Whether it was casting a line in a quiet lake, venturing into the wilderness for a hunt, or tinkering out on his acreage, Bill found joy in every adventure and always ensured he was prepared for anything. His love for nature and wildlife extended beyond his outdoor pursuits

to the companionship of his beloved cats—Buddy, Nugget, and Tiny—who brought him comfort and joy over the years. Bill had a heart as big as the landscapes he loved, always willing to lend a helping hand wherever he could. Beyond his love for nature, **Bill was an extraordinarily talented figure skater in his younger years, his skill and dedication earning him numerous awards and the opportunity to travel the world doing what he loved.** His passion and discipline on the ice left a lasting impression on all who knew him. Bill was also well known for carrying on the family business, Marchyshyn's Home Meat Market, a Ukrainian specialty meat shop that became a beloved staple in the community. His commitment to quality and tradition kept the family legacy alive, and his hard work and personality made him a cherished figure in the lives of many. His presence will be deeply missed, but his spirit will live on in the memories of those who loved him, in the call of the loons on the water, the rustle of leaves in the wind, and the peaceful quiet of a well-earned day by the fire. A Celebration of Life will be held in his honour on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Park Memorial Chapel, 9709 – 111 Avenue, Edmonton, AB. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you take a moment to enjoy the beauty of nature, cast a fishing line in his memory, or lend a helping hand to someone in need—just as Bill would have done. Rest easy, Bill. Your kindness and love will never be forgotten.

Robert DeChristopher – May 5, 2022

Assistant Conductor – West Co.



Robert Gordan DeChristopher passed away peacefully on May 5, 2022 at the age of 80. Bob is the son of the late Angelo and Rose DeChristopher, brother of Dr. Don (Martha) DeChristopher and brother of Lorelei (Roger) Haas. Fond uncle to nieces and nephews Cheryl (Mike), Deanna (Mike), Alysia (Steve), Barbara (Zac), Christopher (Agnieszka), Erik (Enza) and the late Gina (Ron). Bob grew up on the Northwest of Chicago and graduated from St. Williams, Weber High School and DePaul University. He earned post graduate degrees from Northwestern and Columbia University in Musicology. He was a gifted musician, composer and conductor. He conducted Broadway shows, symphony orchestras and internationally known choral and vocal ensembles. He had an extensive worldwide career

in music as a guest conductor and served on the faculty of music at Mc Gill University in Montreal. Bob is now conducting a choral ensemble of cherubs in heaven.

Couldn't have said it better....

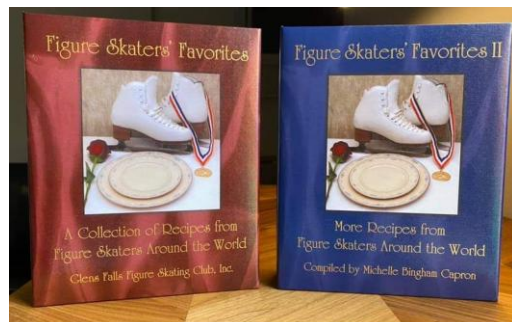


Thank you Jimmy Morgan for your insight on show skaters. Bang on.

Oftentimes show skating is seen as a fall back option if you “don’t make it.” But, I believe it’s more than legitimate. It’s where a lot of skaters actually master their craft.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/16NX5gdLsg/>

Our Alumni in the News



As you know, the figure skating world was rocked to its core in late January by the tragic loss of 28 members of our extended "family." In memory and honor of those we have lost, I am creating Volume III of the **Figure Skaters' Favorites** cookbook series, and I am currently collecting recipes from as many skaters as possible. I am inviting and

encouraging ALL members of the skating community to participate by contributing recipes for this cookbook, and to include brief memories or reflections about skating or about those we have lost.

I hope you will consider submitting a recipe (you're welcome to send more than one!), and that you will share this information with your club members and skating friends, encouraging them to participate as well.

Figure Skaters' Favorites III - Recipes, Reflections, and Remembrances will be in memory and celebration of the lives of those we recently lost, with ALL of the proceeds going to the USFS Family Support Fund. I want it to be a way for members of the skating community to be part of the memorial process individually and collectively as we all begin to recover and heal from this tragic loss, in addition to being a fun and easy way for skaters to help the Family Support / Memorial Fund.

If you wish, you may also contribute recipes in memory of other members of the skating club who are no longer with us.

If you have purchased either of the first two cookbook volumes, you know that the book comes in an elegant padded ring binder and includes divider tabs for each section, brief biographies of each contributor, recipe hints, and more. They are very nice quality and make wonderful gifts.

In addition to recipes, there are also opportunities to submit messages, remembrances, or ads for the book. All submissions will be due by the end of August, 2025.

I am targeting the books to come out by the end of 2025, in time for holiday gift-giving. Cost will be \$40 each. Copies of Volume III can be reserved for a \$20 deposit, with balance and shipping cost due prior to shipment.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please visit SkatersCookbook at SkatersCookbook.com or feel free to contact me - Michelle (Bingham) Capron at SkatersCookbook@gmail.com or at 518-744-8584.

Ice Theatre of New York



Watch our 2025 Home Season Performance!
Featuring Guest Artist: **Ilia Malinin**, 2X World Champion
ITNY Ensemble and Performing Apprentices



[Watch full performance on Vimeo](#)
[Individual Pieces can be viewed on Youtube](#)

ITNY Ensemble: Sarah Baetge, Jaqueline Benson, Danil Berdnikov, Jeremy Cline, Sarah France, Angela Kim, Valerie Levine, Isaac Lindy, Karina Manta, Libby McGrosky, Liz Yoshiko Schmidt, and Aaron Singletary

ITNY Performing Apprentices: Georgina Blackwell, Caroline Mura, and Milly Wasserman

For more news and photos, [click here](#).

Memories

Did you know how Brian Orser was instrumental in helping Underhill & Martini win gold at the 1984 World's in Ottawa? Check out the video -



https://youtu.be/m_r08J-20eE?si=17yXuu21p13FEz6K

Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini had an Olympic Games to forget in 1984, and it was shaping up to be an even worse World Championships, held in Canada. Only three weeks later, Barbara and Paul were at World's in Ottawa, skated their hearts out and won Gold. They were awarded the Order of Sport and inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 1988.



Relive their Gold Metal performance at World's in Ottawa in 1984. Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA - 1984 World Figure Skating Championships, Pairs' Long Program - Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini of Canada skated a perfect program in front of their home audience and moved up from 2nd Place to win the Gold Medal.



<https://youtu.be/6MKOyGh-Ws8?si=DL7AqpcxgXQ4D1-v>



Now the stars of the Ice Capades, skating team Barbara Underhill, 21, and Paul Martini, 24, are still trying to get used to a noisy audience. 'Competing is different from entertaining,' says Martini

What was your first day like when you joined "America's #1 Family Show?"

Since we are all in skating mode - alot of the Olympians are having their first exposure on the big stage and their nerves seemed to be getting to them. We all had our first day at 'school' as well. What was your first day like when you walked into that arena and knew you had just joined 'America's #1 Family Show'?

Richard Morse will start us off with his first day. - The second week of rehearsals was my first day. I arrived an hour early so as to avoid having to walk in front of everybody. I took a seat in the front row figuring the cast would formulate around me. Finally Rita Reiderer skated over and asked, "Are you Richard Morse from Providence?" Walking across that ice, skates in hand, was the longest walk I've ever taken!!!

[Nancy Anderson King](#)

Shirley Costello took me under her wing on the train trip from Los Angeles to Atlantic City. We had a layover in Chicago so we went to see "How the West was Won. Somehow on the taxi ride back to the station my skates were left behind and I arrived to work the next day with no skates. It took about 4 weeks for a new pair to arrive so I had to learn the numbers on the floor. not a great start but I lasted 25 years in the business.

[Jim Hurst](#)

It's a long story...short version: Shirley Costello auditioned me (I had NO idea of who she was at the time) and "approved" me for hire during East Co. rehearsals in Utica, NY. I'll never forget her ringing endorsement "You're fine, you'll do"!! LOL, she was always nice to me when she came in to West Co which is where I spent 6 years with the fabulous Dolly Pierce and Ed Pierce. Reporting to the arena in Duluth we walked around to the back/stage entrance and sitting out in lawn chairs watching (critiquing?) all the new kids were the people who drove the tour; definitely remember Rick(stage manager) and Bev (wardrobe mistress) Banville watching us. Walking past them and they were very, very JUDGY!! LOL Welcome to show-biz!!


[Gloria Spoden](#)

I grew up in the comfort of a small town in Canada, had auditioned a couple times and finally got my telegram, yes a telegram, from Bill Bain to join Ice Capades. I was one of 5 new girls who were called to join in Washington DC in February at the start of rehearsals for the new show. For those who were there, Washington happened to have a snowstorm that year that delayed our arrival but we finally arrived. I believe it was the Manger Annapolis Hotel. I found my way to the show office and met the show manager, Jack Balmer. Because the show bus had already left for the arena, we took a taxi and found ourselves next to the railroad yards, where the arena was located. Found out that it was not in the best part of the city and we were warned to make sure that we took the bus back to the hotel. We were given the obligatory 'new girl' speech by anyone who had more seniority than us (guess that meant everyone) that we were not allowed to sit on the bus unless everyone else with more seniority were seated first. My first night in the big city – the chain on my hotel room door was broken so I put a chair against the doorknob. Welcome to the bigtime!!

[Pam Miller](#)

I was fortunate to hook up with three girls from Cont'I that were here in West Co. for their second year. They showed the ropes to this very "deer caught in the headlights" Canadian!. I did have a girl that told me the seats in the costume room were also assigned like the make-up room.....took me three days to discover this was an initiation!

[Jane Pierce](#)

It hit me big when Phil Romano came to Bakersfield during rehearsals and talked with me for a minute. I had to pinch myself. 



The website, www.icecapadestheblade.com has been revamped and more information has been added. If you have something to add, please send them.

Look here for **2025 Ice Capades Reunion** information, including reunion pictures

Cast, Precision & Production Pictures – Relive some memories.

Past reunion Pictures – Check them out for some you may have missed.

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



CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

Ice Theatre of New York, Inc.®
presents

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

Ticket and information at [icetheatre.org/tickets](https://www.icetheatre.org/tickets)

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