

Bancroft skater strikes gold twice in one season



Bancroft Skating Club Double Gold Winner Melissa Elliott

The opportunity for a skater to reach a Skate Canada Gold Level is challenging, yet rewarding. The Bancroft Skating Club is excited to announce that 14-year-old Melissa Elliott has now passed her third Skate Canada Gold Level.

In March, Melissa passed her Gold Level of Skate Canada Dances. In order to achieve the Gold Level of Dances, the skater must perform 21 individual dances, and get a passing mark on each. This normally takes years' worth of skating practice. Melissa's ability to dance on ice has proven to be exceptional, as she completed the program in just five years. Melissa, a first year student at North Hastings High, is now very excited to start working on her Diamond Dances.

More recently, Melissa received her third Skate Canada Gold, this time in Interpretive pairs, along with her partner Annika Dale. This is a first in Bancroft Skating Club's history, as the category is just a couple of years old.

Going for Skate Canada gold is a nerve-racking business, as just one simple mistake can force you to try the whole test again. Melissa would like to thank her coaches Jennifer Knopp, Lisa Allore and Sarah Dillabough; she looks forward to working with them again next season.

More thanks should go the parents and caregivers of all Star program skaters. They have to take time off, travel frequently, and spend hours in the arena and on the road. They are the unsung heroes.

Submitted by Tracey Dale