

## Figure Skating by Nancy Archibald

I enrolled Aaron, now five years old, in figure skating lessons at the Lacombe Arena in January 1980. Most of his class were girls whose figure skates had a toe pick used for jumps. Aaron's hockey skates worked for everything but jumps.

The first class was about balancing, falling and getting up, and marching steps. Most of this came naturally to him because he had skated before. During the first lesson, he was already taking short fast strides. Week after week, he learned and practiced gliding, swatting and gliding, gliding on one foot with the other one foot up, forward scissors, and forward stroking using the inside edges of the blades, skating backwards using half scissors, how to stop using the snowplow, how to spin and how to do crossovers.

I enjoyed watching Aaron's progress from stands as he wove through pylons during the drills. He noticed me watching him. I worked shift work on pediatrics in Red Deer, so I took the occasional nap in the dressing room when working nights.

At the end of the season, the skating instructor handed me a note on March 1st.

Performance, March 5, 1980. The Wizard of Oz. Aaron is playing the part of the Tin Man, see below for instructions for making the costume.

Somehow, with my Mom's help, Aaron had a silver costume and pointed hat in time for the show. I was so proud of my little boy as he skated gracefully in time with the others, along with "Follow the Yellow Brick Road".