

An Osborn Maledon Profile

The Curzons and their not-so-usual hobbies- Sailing, Tae-Kwon Do and Ice Skating

It began early in their marriage when Tom Curzon, a busy Phoenix business lawyer, and his wife, Anne, equally devoted to a career in mechanical engineering, decided to develop a hobby together because, as Tom puts it, "it would be good for our marriage and our relationship."

Physically active and equally competitive, the Curzons did "a little bit of sailing," Tom says in vast understatement.

Translation: The Curzons bought a Catamaran and for seven years, actively competed at every opportunity in local racing contests. A dozen weekends a year, the couple traveled to races in other locations ranging from Lake Pleasant to Monterey Bay. In 1990, they won the Fleet Championship competition for their club.

Sailing was the start of a lifelong family commitment to physical activity that their friends think is extraordinary, but Tom and Anne say is just part of their daily routine. Each sport they have engaged in has enriched their lives, the two agree.

In the beginning, Tom says, sailing helped them develop a team spirit.

"We learned more respect for each other, to trust each other's judgment," Tom says.

"And it was wonderful therapy-the moment we hooked the boat onto the van, it was a whole new universe."

Like many couples, when the Curzons became parents to two boys in 1986 and 1987, their outside-the-home free time diminished. Sailing on weekends became a lot more difficult with two



toddlers, and the Curzon team developed other priorities for a while.

But later, when five-year-old Danny and six-year-old Peter were attracted to Tae Kwon-Do, the very physical and demanding Korean martial art, the whole family enrolled together. Parents and kids in the same class, they determined to advance at the same pace for 4 ½ years. And, as with sailing, the Curzons became devoted to the activity.

"We learned together," Anne recalls. "We all did it together."

Tom says there was another plus: "It gave the boys an opportunity to watch Anne and me struggle and learn . . . to see us in the process of learning, too."

All four Curzons earned 1st Degree Black Belts, but they got something more.

"We all learned a lot about discipline and goal-setting, not to mention etiquette and good manners," Tom says. "And every three months or so, we were testing . . . taking really tough tests on physical skills and memorization.

"By the time the boys got to test-taking in school, it was a no-brainer. They had done it and were confident about taking tests."



The Curzons as red belts.



The Curzons at Tom's second degree black belt testing in August of 2003.

It might appear that there couldn't be a much more different physical activity than Tae Kwon-Do and figure skating, the next sport the Curzons took up as a family. But the Curzons say the two sports actually have much in common. Tom and Anne point to the tough physical demands that both make. Peter and Danny say both sports required self-motivation, dedication and discipline.

"And they taught us a lot about competition and sportsmanship," Danny adds.

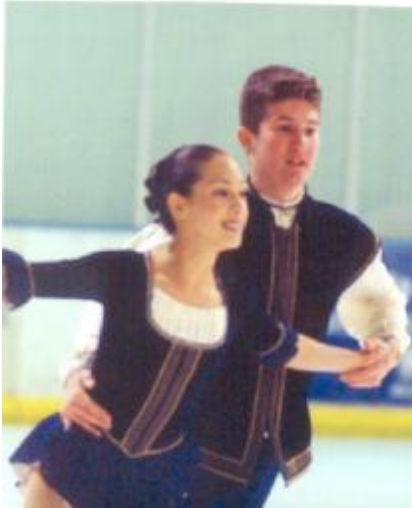
When Anne first was attracted to figure skating, the men in her life were not immediately drawn to her new interest. Both boys wanted to play hockey, though, so they decided to take figure skating lessons with their mom to become more proficient on the ice. Soon they decided to stay with figure skating.

"Not in a million years did I think I would ever take figure skating lessons, but I didn't want to be left out," Tom says with a smile.

But this time Peter and Danny soon out-performed their parents and graduated to private lessons. Tom "became official videographer" for the skaters, and Anne became skating manager-driving the boys to lessons and making costumes for performances.

The boys began to study with Doug Ladret, a two-time Olympic team member, who is also a two-time Canadian pairs figure skating champion and formerly

was with Stars on Ice. The boys each have partners and focus on pairs skating.



The Curzon brothers are accomplished skaters who have done well in competition. Peter and his partner competed four times at the national championships, and



in December 2001 they won tenth place in Intermediate Pairs in the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships in Chicago. Peter and his partner retired from pairs after that championship, and Peter now passionately pursues lacrosse and soccer, playing on his high school varsity teams in both sports.

In December 2001, Danny and his partner won third place in the national championships in Juvenile Pair competition, earning a place on the National Development Team. And in December 2002, Danny and his partner again won the bronze medal at the junior national championships, this time in Intermediate Pairs. For the 2003-04 season, they have moved up to novice pairs, and are working hard to find a place on that podium.

To make life even more interesting, the boys and their father are actively involved in scouting, particularly backpacking and canoeing. Both boys are Eagle Scouts and brotherhood members of the Order of the Arrow Tom is Chairman of the Troop Committee. Their involvement with scouting has been intensive and has helped further build leadership skills in the boys, Tom says.

Preparing for rigorous skating competition has required an extraordinary commitment from all the Curzons. Anne gets up three days a week as early as 3:00 a.m. and wakes Danny so they can leave on the 25-minute trip to the skating rink, getting in a full lesson before school begins at 7:45 a.m. Tom helps with the driving and at the competitions. Peter, 17, a junior, and Danny, 15, a sophomore, both at Phoenix Country Day, have embraced a schedule that leaves little time for anything but academics, skating for Danny, and lacrosse for both boys. (Three days a week Danny goes back to the ice after school ends at 3 p.m., so balancing lacrosse and skating can be tricky)

Both boys say that at the height of the skating adventure, they most missed sleep and home-cooked meals.

"We sleep in the car," Danny says.

"Most families have family discussions around the dinner table. For us, it's in the car on the way to the rink," adds Peter, who decided to take a break from the stress of skating, devoting his time to his lacrosse, soccer and other high school activities. He's attacking lacrosse and soccer, though, with the same intensity that he used in skating, playing on the varsity teams in both sports and serving as a co-captain in soccer for next year, only his second year in the sport. He is also motivated, he says, by the realization that, at some point, even the most talented young skater has to choose between college and continuing training. Peter already knows that he will choose college.

"It was fun," he says, laughing. "You get to skate as fast as you can, jump as hard as you can and then fall as hard as you can."

Danny, who also believes that he eventually will chose school over skating, still is enjoying the active competition, wanting to see how much more he can achieve.

Though it was obviously difficult for Tom and Anne to accept Peter's decision, they have supported it.

They know, and their sons know, that their family involvement in sports has already taken them places they didn't expect to go. All four say they expect that some sort of robust physical activity will always be part of their lives.

"Both Tae-Kwon Do and skating imbedded in Peter and Danny a relationship with us that become deeper and enriched because they have a better understanding of us," says Tom. "It was so important to us to have a family

activity where goals were set and accomplishments were gained over a significant period of time."

"It's been great for us as a family," agrees Anne.