

Swim coach hangs up goggles

The Aurora Selkies Swim Team enjoyed their last work out at St Andrew's College this June and Yvonne Cattrall ended the first phase of her 49 year career in the swim coaching business.

The last workout followed an end-of-the-year and retirement party held for Cattrall and 130 Selkie swimmers, families and friends from Aurora and the surrounding area.

During the party, she presented every young Selkie swimmer with a special souvenir medal to keep in memory of their days swimming with the team. The medals were special indeed; medals which Yvonne had won over the past 35 years as a provincial, national and World competitor in Masters Swimming.

During her speech, Yvonne told her guests that it was not a difficult decision to give the medals to her young swimmers as they had been in the basement in boxes for 35 years.

Currently, Yvonne is in midst of teaching her summer Learn to Swim programme. Several hundred young swimmers will learn to swim with Yvonne this summer, as in past summers, in local back yard pools and August 1 was her last teaching day, ending the second stage of her retirement.

Yvonne says she is looking forward to her retirement with her husband Byron Russell, in Mill Bay, Vancouver Island. The couple will move to the Island in this month and in January 2014, begin a one year world tour together.

The tour will include a one month summer visit to Aurora to spend time with family and friends as well as some time devoted to teaching swimming lessons in this area again. It will also include a quick visit to Montreal and Yvonne's participation in the Masters World Championships, in the summer of 2014.