



Off the ground

Richmond Hill skater Jana Kim Batka is anxiously awaiting an appearance next month in East Germany. The 15-year-old will compete in the Blue Swords International Junior Cup from Nov. 10 to 12 in Berlin.
Steven Somerville photo

Hill skater participates in first international event

By MIKE THEODORES
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RICHMOND HILL - Local figure skater Jana Kim Batka will be representing Canada next month in a major junior competition in East Germany.

The 15-year-old will be competing in the Blue Swords International Junior Cup in Berlin from Nov. 10 to the 12. It will feature some top skaters in the world under the age of 17.

Batka was selected to represent the country earlier this month by the Canadian Figure Skating Association. She trains with both the York Region

McLeod said. "It should be a very good experience and I think she could do very well in it."

Batka will enter the competition with some impressive credentials of her own. She placed third overall in the Eastern Canadian novice division earlier this year and recently earned a third place finish in the Canadian junior world tryouts.

The Grade 9 student at Langstaff Secondary School said she's excited about the trip.

"I'm really looking forward to it," she said. "I think I can learn something from watching the