



# BARRIE Advance



THURSDAY, JAN. 23, 2014 • 52,900 COPIES • \$1.00

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Paul Burke, left, and his sister Cecilia Burke, owners of The Original Flag Store on Saunders Road, were the first to sign a banner wishing Barrie's Olympians all the best. Skaters Alexandra Paul and Mitchell Islam are off to Sochi. STAN HOWE PHOTO

## Show your support for our Olympians

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The Original Flag Store, City of Barrie and *Barrie Advance* have teamed up to cheer on Barrie's Olympians with the creation of a special banner.

Barrie's Mitchell Islam and Alexandra Paul will represent Canada in the ice dance competition in Sochi and will have the support of city residents behind them when they take to the ice.

The three-by-20 foot banner, which will be available for the public to sign until Jan. 30, will be sent

to our athletes at the Games.

Original Flag Store CEO/president Cecilia Burke said this is the first banner they've made specifically for Barrie Olympians.

"We've made banners for a few Toronto athletes for the Vancouver games, but this is special," she said. "My brother Paul and I are going to be the first ones to sign it and show our support."

Burke said she can't wait to watch the Games and cheer on the skaters.

"We'll even have the Olympics on in our store so we don't miss anything," she said. "To me, figure skat-

### ▶ SIGN THE BANNER:

- Jan. 25 and 26 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Allandale Recreation Centre
- Jan. 27 and 28 – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at East Bayfield Community Centre
- Jan. 29 and 30 – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Holly Community Centre



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

ing is the ultimate Olympic event."

Mayor Jeff Lehman said the banner is a great way for residents to show how proud they are of our skaters.

"The Olympics is one of the

things that rallies the entire country together," the mayor said. "The fact that a couple of incredible skaters from Barrie will be competing and have a chance for success only adds to the excitement of the Games."

*The Advance's* editor-in-chief Lori Martin encourages residents to take their families to sign the banner at one of three locations.

"We are thrilled to partner with The Original Flag Store and the City of Barrie in this endeavour because we want our Olympians to know we are already proud of them and wish them all the best in Sochi," Martin said.

"Watching the skaters take to the ice, knowing you have taken the time to wish them well, will just add to the excitement of the Games."