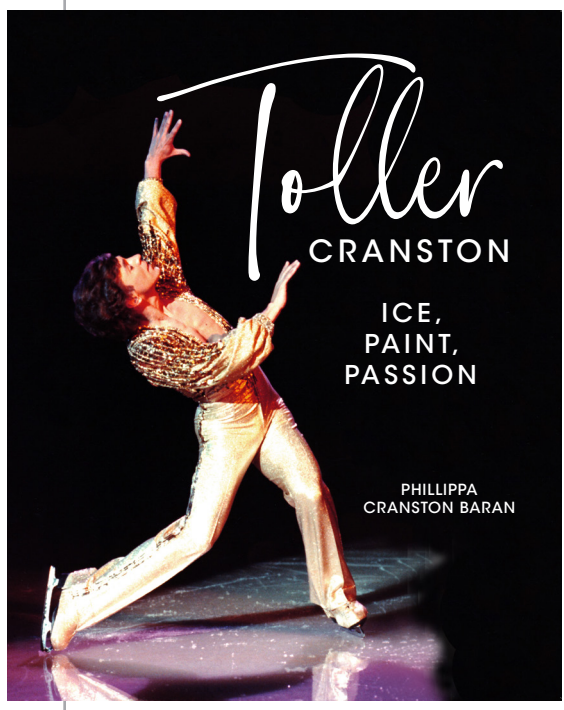

Winner, 2024 International Impact Book Awards
Winner, 2024 Firebird Book Awards
Finalist, 2024 Best Book Awards
Short List, 2022 Sutherland House Book Prize for Non-Fiction,

MEDIA KIT

- TOLLER CRANSTON AT A GLANCE
- ABOUT THE AUTHOR
- ABOUT THE BOOK
- THE AUDIENCE
- TESTIMONIALS
- KEY THEMES
- STORY IDEAS AND QUESTIONS
- QUICK FACTS
- CONTACT

Toller Cranston was a complex talent—brilliant, funny, flamboyant, and deeply human.

He was Toller.
You don't need to say Cranston to
flesh out the spirit of the man:
Creative. Outspoken. Voraciously well-read.
Colourful. Generous. Prickly.

There is only one Toller.

There will only ever be one Toller.

Toller CRANSTON

From the sister of an icon comes a totally original account of an extraordinary life.

AT A GLANCE

- **ATHLETE:** World & Olympic medalist, World Professional Champion, six-time Canadian Figure Skating Champion
- **ARTIST:** Completed 20,000 paintings and drawings, 300 international exhibitions with 250 one-man shows
- **CREATOR:** Two Theatre on Ice shows on Broadway, eight TV specials
- **AUTHOR:** Published six books
- **LEGEND:** Recognized as Skater of the Century
- **ROLE MODEL:** for LGBTQ+ community
- **CANADIAN:** inducted into the Order of Canada, Canada's Walk of Fame, Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame, Canada Sports Hall of Fame, Canada Figure Skating Hall of Fame, International Order of the Olympics, World Figure Skating Hall of Fame

Phillippa Cranston Baran (BA, Queens University, MA in Film, UCLA) is an award-winning writer/producer, who was formerly a university film professor and, for several years, a dairy goat farmer. These journeys each have their own colourful stories and the combination of success, setback, and craziness equipped her to write about her very famous brother. In *Ice, Paint, Passion* Phillippa applies her unique background to creating a multidimensional perspective of Toller, and cleverly adds the observations and contribution of people in Toller's own world of sport and art. She was there from the beginning and quite literally bears the scars—a faded gash on her left thigh—from the time when her younger brother kicked her with his skates when she refused to twirl him. She is understanding of his quirks, fiercely proud of his talent, and committed to sharing his story.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

She has established the Toller Cranston Foundation and remains dedicated to expanding her brother's legacy in Canada and around the world. She is a competitive Duplicate Bridge player with the rank of Ruby Life Master. She lives in the original Cranston family cottage on the Ottawa River near Arnprior, Canada.

The news of Toller Cranston's sudden death in Mexico at age sixty-five shattered the skating world. In the packed media room of an arena in Kingston, Ontario, journalists, producers, and commentators stared at each other in shock. On the ice, competitors stopped their warmup. In the stands, parents, coaches, and thousands of fans fell into stunned silence. It couldn't be true. Toller—larger than life— gone? As the news spread across the world, the tweets and tributes began to pour in. Thousands and thousands of them.

ABOUT THE BOOK

With his passing in 2015, Canada lost an icon. Figure skating lost a trailblazer. The creative world lost a creative force. For decades, this Canadian icon and internationally recognized celebrity amazed, outraged, motivated, and inspired. He deeply touched people. He changed a sport. He changed attitudes. He changed lives.

The book is a celebration of his life, a tribute to the values by which he lived, and a road map for living fearlessly. It is about dealing with failure and success. It unfolds through the voices of those who knew him, admired him, competed with him, and were inspired by him. It is about you. It is about me. It is about all of us.

a beautiful book … heartfelt and intimate…
In 1977, a New York Times review of his Broadway show ended with "Go see him." Likewise, this review can only finish with: "Go read it.

Literary Review of Canada

"Toller Cranston opened the eyes of the world.
He was an inspiration."
Don Jackson, Olympic medalist and
world champion figure skater.

"This book is addictive."
Susan Page, director emeritus of the San Miguel Writers'
Conference and Literary Festival.

"Dive into Toller's wacky and wonderful world.
Buckle up!!!"
Brian Orser, double Olympic medalist and
world champion figure skater.

TESTIMONIALS

"A great style mentor and a cherished
confidante."
Jeanne Beker, media and fashion entrepreneur.

"Toller has allowed figure skaters like me to be
bold and unafraid in the pursuit of our art."
Elladj Baldé, ice artist and humanitarian.

"Every single person who has ever met Toller
has a memorable story to tell"
Kurt Browning, Olympian and four-time
World Champion.

"A roller coaster through a magical mystery
tour of his life, his art, and the genius
behind it all.
Christopher Talbot, President and CEO, Art Evolution

Creative, Productive, Daring, Inventive, Stylish,
He defied description.
Charles Pachter, OC, Artist

Without his legacy, the stories I created on ice
would otherwise not have been possible.
Patrick Chan, Olympic, World and
10x Canadian champion.

KEY THEMES

Be creative now

Never quit

Learn to live without fear

Discover your destiny

THE AUDIENCE

The audience of the Book is planet-wide, and includes:

- Lovers of figure skating
- Fans of the Olympics
- Artists and performers
- LGBTQ+ community

1. How should we describe Toller Cranston? A skater who painted or a painter who skated?

2. It is said that everyone has a Toller story. Why does Toller resonate with so many people? What is your favourite Toller story?

3. In a time when having hope for the future is so important, this book causes us to reflect upon the life of someone who really made a difference and inspires us *to forget the boxes* and be not who we are but who we can be.

STORY IDEAS & QUESTIONS

4. In the eyes of many, Toller Cranston is a Canadian icon. Why is he relevant? Why should people be interested in this book? What was his impact? How would you describe his legacy?

5. The book carries a powerful message that with big dreams and hard work, a bold and successful life is within reach.

6. Toller Cranston was an artist on ice, in the studio, and in his life. He had zero tolerance for giving less than one's all. He wrote a book called *Zero Tollerance*. His tombstone in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico reads *Toller Artist, 1949-2015, Zero Tollerance.*

7. Through his skating and his painting, Toller reminds us of Georgia O'Keefe who once said: "I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way—things I had no words for."

8. Can you comment on this statement: "Toller was never openly "out" and yet he is an important icon to the LGBTQ+ community?"

9. Toller is an acclaimed artist who was more prolific than Picasso. How did a Canadian figure skating champion become a successful international artist? What makes his art unique?

10. *Toller Cranston: Ice, Paint, Passion* has contributions from 150 people. How did this unusual concept evolve?

11. The book jacket states: "In the process of writing this book, Phillippa had to deal with corruption, extortion, and threats by gun-toting thugs. Like her brother, she is not a quitter." Can you elaborate on a few of the major challenges you faced, and explain why you persevered?

12. Toller Cranston never won a gold medal and yet he transformed figure skating in ways that still resonate.

13. Toller spent the last third of his life in Mexico. What was the attraction?

14. What was it like growing up with Toller Cranston?

15. People are still outraged about how Toller Cranston was treated by the figure skating establishment nearly five decades ago. Are they right?

16. Toller and John Curry are often compared because of their artistry. What are their intersecting roles in skating history?

17. Where did the name Toller come from? What is the background of the Cranston family?

18. What do dairy goat farming and figure skating have in common?

19. Toller's message to everyone was "Be creative now?" Is that realistic?

QUICKFACTS

Ken Whyte, Sutherland House, Phillippa

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View the Toller Cranston Collection at

DC FA DONNA CHILD FINE ART GALLERY

donnachildfineart.com

artevolution.com
fine art at your fingertips

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