

## Diary of a Competition World's Finest Chocolate Skate Atlantica

**Friday April 12** - We arrive at an empty arena to prepare for the competition. Boxes of stuff are hauled to the hospitality room, music room, registration and data specialist's room. Fridges and photocopy machines are delivered. Slowly the rink comes to life as the skaters register and have their turn on the practice ice. Chaos turns to order as dressing rooms are opened, music is delivered and the judge's stand is built. This is the first Skate Atlantica to be held in 31 years; the last one was in 1982. It is being sponsored by World's Finest Chocolate and is reverentially referred to as "The Chocolate Competition". Nova Scotia is hosting the competition at the East Hants Sportsplex in Lantz NS. Welcome to Nova Scotia!

**That Same Evening** - On Friday night all the skaters are invited for a fun social evening in Dartmouth. Pizza, pop and much hilarity as skaters dress for the evening in garbage bags, toilet paper and other unmentionables, all held together with a few pieces of string and some staples.

**Saturday April 13** - This morning everything is in place for the competition to start at 9:00. The dressing rooms are full and skaters are warming up wherever they can find space. The video man is in place and the judges are briefed. The skaters are nervous as they take to the ice for their warm-up and the mums are even more nervous. Gorgeous dresses, beautiful skaters and great skates. Skaters have come all the way from PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador to participate. The top 6 skaters are invited from each province for STARskaters Junior Bronze and above and for competitive skaters. In Nova Scotia, the competitive skaters qualified at the Robert McCall Memorial Competition - Skate Dartmouth in February, while STARskaters qualified at STARskate Provincials in March.



**Sunday April 14** - This is the last day of the competition. Competitive skaters Pre-Novice and above do their long program, and the day ends with the Gold Ladies event. Congratulations to all skaters and especially to...

### Our Atlantic Canadian Champions:

Jnr Bronze Women U13: Abbey Gallant, NS  
Jnr Bronze Women U19: Lauren Coombs, NL  
Snr Bronze Women: Kimberley Duggan, NS  
Jnr Silver Women: Rachel Mitchell, NS  
Snr Silver Women: Nicole Casey, NL  
Gold Women: Miranda Walsh, NL  
Pre-Juvenile Women U11: Sophie Tanner, NS  
Pre-Juvenile Women U14: Erin Maher, NL  
Pre-Juvenile Men: Alexandre Robert, NS  
Juvenile Women U11: Maya Petten, NL  
Juvenile Women U14: Jillian Matlock, NS  
Pre-Novice Women: Katie Halliday, PE  
Pre-Novice Men: Brandon Bent, NS  
Novice Women: Rachelle Siteman, NS  
Junior Women: Ashley Morgan, NL.

Results can be found at:

<http://www.skatecanada.ns.ca/en-us/newsevents/events.aspx>

### Friday Night Fashion Show



PEI Potato Pickers



Preparation is key



Just getting ready...



Thanks to Katherine and Abbey for helping out

# News from our Clubs...

## Halifax Skating Club - 150 Years!

by Jodi Reid

Did you know that the Halifax Skating Club is the oldest skating club in Canada? Our first skaters took to the ice on a pond in the Halifax Public Gardens in 1862!

Throughout the 2012-2103 skating season, the Halifax Skating Club has been celebrating 150 years of skating. In February, HSC held a skating party on the Emera Oval, just around the corner from where it all began a century and a half ago. In November, responding to an invitation from skater Alex Baillie, Rick Mercer came to HSC to tape a hilarious segment for the Rick Mercer Report. You *must* watch Rick tackle the new Canskate and the jump harness at <http://bit.ly/17rMzf5>! The celebration continues at the Annual General Meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>; see [www.halifaxskatingclub.com](http://www.halifaxskatingclub.com).

## Lunenburg Skating Club Hosts the 2nd Annual Skating Skills Challenge

by Marci Elliott

The Lunenburg Club hosted the 2nd Annual Skating Skills Challenge on March 23rd, 2013. Skaters of all ages and levels were invited to perform a pre-set list of age- and ability-appropriate skills. They were evaluated on "performance-based criteria" rather than traditional 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placement. All skaters were served a complimentary "Champion Breakfast" by local community members and celebrities sponsored by Nutella. The Club also hosted a fun guest celebrity challenge, with both figure skating and hockey skills, as a fund-raising event. It was a great success, promoting a positive relationship between these two skating communities.

## Did You Know?

Figure skating is one of the few sports in the world where coaches are paid and officials aren't. The average official (judges and data specialists) in Nova Scotia volunteers 210 hours of their time every year - that's over 4 working weeks. These are the people you see at test days, competitions and monitoring sessions. Most of them don't have kids in the sport any more.

A huge **THANK-YOU** to our officials and other volunteers who have made a difference this year!

## Lunenburg Skating Club Receives Grant Funding to Help Promote Healthy Eating and Active Living in our Community

by Marci Elliott

The Lunenburg Skating Club has been granted funding from the Lunenburg Community Health Board, Nova Scotia Department of Health and Recreation, and Nutella Breakfast Funds to re-build and promote CanSkate and STARskate programs in the club. In recent years, the club has been at risk of folding due to low registration and inconsistent coaching availability. With a new executive, although small, which is willing to provide leadership with their new head coach, the Club's future is looking bright and is steadily moving forward. The Club currently provides Pre-Can, CanSkate, STARskate and Adult Fall and Winter programs for skaters in the local area. Plans to obtain another day of ice time, additional coaching training and working together with the minor hockey clubs are just a few initiatives the club has in its business plan to promote healthy active participation and skill development for children and adults alike.



Rick Mercer celebrates Halifax Skating Club's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday



## CONGRATULATIONS

**June 1, 2013** – The following people will be honored at the RICOH Sport Awards by Sport Nova Scotia and Skate Canada Nova Scotia

Award Category	Nominee
Volunteer of the Year	Mary Coady
Team of the Year	AXE-Elles
Coach of the Year	Angela Coady Pennington
Official of the Year	Marie Bowness
Male Team Athlete of the Year	Matthew Webb
Male Individual Athlete of the Year	Brandon Bent
Female Individual Athlete of the Year	Stephie Walmsley
Association of the Year	Richmond Skating Club



STARskaters wowed the crowd at the Oval with a flashmob (Lazy Day Photography)