

# SKATE CANADA NOVA SCOTIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014 – 2015

Another skating season has gone by very quickly and with the help of volunteers and coaches, skaters have taken their skills to a new level. It takes many people to build a club and keep it running successfully, the dedication of those people is invaluable to our sport and our communities. While we all face challenges, the Riverview Skating Club with the loss of their rink, will perhaps face the biggest challenge in the club's history. The skating community will help support the club and look forward to skating on their new ice surface in the years to come.

Skate Canada's Annual General Meeting & Convention and National Coaches Convention was held in Quebec City May 2014, which was again very informative. This year's ACGM will be held in Winnipeg the last week of May and again looks like it will be a fabulous opportunity to grow our skating knowledge. I would encourage all clubs to seriously consider supporting interested volunteers and/or coaches to attend the ACGM next year wherever it may be.

The Primary STARSkate Course (formerly Level 1 Phase 3) was successfully held in May 2014 under the guidance of Janet Harvey. The same course will be held May 16th, to 18th at Cole Harbour Place, again this year. We continue to work with New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to offer courses. The CanSkate Coaches training will be delivered in New Brunswick July 31<sup>st</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. A CanPower Seminar with Scott Grover and Joel Lenis is being held on April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, which is being offered to both hockey and ringette as well as our coaches. Last year New Brunswick also delivered days 4 & 5 of the ISPC (old Level 2) program.

A reminder to all clubs to send in Executive Lists with mailing addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, this is **very important** for the communication of information. 2015 – 2016 Club requirements will again be, the signature of the Privacy Policy on behalf of their members, Annual General Meeting Minutes and Financial Statements. I would urge all clubs to look at their constitutions in detail to see if the needs of your club are being met by this document. Constitutions should be reviewed annually and any changes brought forth to the club's Annual General Meeting, with copies being sent to Skate Canada Nova Scotia and Skate Canada.

I was very fortunate to attend the following competitions, Sectionals in Amherst, Fall Skate in East Hants, Challenge in Montreal, Nationals in Kingston, Rob McCall Memorial, Provincial STARSkate and Synchro Championships in Liverpool and the World's Finest Chocolate Atlantic Canada Skating Championships 2015, with its new name, but same great competition. To the organizing committees of all competitions thank you, without the time you invest as volunteers these opportunities for our skaters would be lost. Please consider volunteering for a competition, as every hour that is given is truly a gift to our skaters.

Our Board continues its strategic planning journey, which has given us a document to refer to while planning for the season and beyond. Thanks to Norm Proft and Alex Kilby from Skate Canada for guiding us through this process. Skate Canada Nova Scotia's Strategic Plan mirrors the pillars of Skate Canada. We will need many hands to accomplish the tasks ahead as set out in our strategic plan, please consider lending a hand. It is very exciting to start a new quadrennial after Canada Games, there will be changes in many of the requirements from our financial partners as they are being more accountable for the resources they give.

I would like to thank our funding partners, for without whom many of our projects would not be possible, SUPPORT4SPORT, the Active Living Branch Department of Health and Wellness, Sport Fund, and 1990 World Legacy. Our sponsors Workplace Essentials, and World's Finest Chocolate. Also KidSport, without their support many children would not have the opportunity to skate in our province.

To every volunteer in Nova Scotia a big **THANK YOU**, we can't do it without your help.

Thanks to Sara Brown and Treena Landry who will be retiring from their Board Positions this year. To the new members that will be serving on the Skate Canada Nova Scotia Board welcome, I look forward to working with you and sharing new ideas. Thanks to Jackie Atkinson, who does a WONDERFUL job keeping us all informed on the website and now facebook, even with the challenges that have been presented by technology this year.

I truly enjoy meeting with any and all people exploring ways that we can together build skating in Nova Scotia to be as strong as it can be. I am only a phone call 425-5454 ext 336 or e-mail [skatecanadans@sportnovascotia.ca](mailto:skatecanadans@sportnovascotia.ca) away.

To our skaters we do it all for YOU, whether you are standing on your blades for the first time or attending National competitions, we are so proud of your accomplishments and love to see your smiling faces at the rink.

Best of luck with the 2015 – 2016 Skating Season,

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Knowles  
Executive Director  
Skate Canada Nova Scotia

