

Section Chair's Report

2014-2015

The 2015 SCNS Sectional Championships hosted by the Amherst Skating Club on November 8th and 9th, 2014 and was a very successful event. The people, the venue, the hospitality was great and thanks go out to Will Corbett and his wonderful team of volunteers for contributing to the success of this event. This was a great competition and the skating was very good. We will be joining New Brunswick for the 2016 sectionals which will be held in Dieppe, New Brunswick on November 7th and 8th, 2015.

Last year we introduced the STAR program to competitions which replaced all levels below the Senior Bronze level, with the exception of STAR 4, which was included this season. This new program assesses the skaters against a standard for STAR 1 to 4 and they are awarded one of the following levels merit, bronze, silver or gold instead of against each other. This part of the LTAD program where skaters are given greater feedback and they can see their progression from competition to competition. It was well received by skater, coaches, officials and parents.

Twelve single skaters and one dance team made up our challenge team in Montreal, their commitment and dedication is admired. Congratulations to all the skaters for proudly representing this section. Thanks must go out to our Team Leaders Jill Knowles, John Mattatall, Sarah Miles and Joseph Scott for their role with our team, which can be challenging.

In January 2015, the section was represented at the Canadian Championships in Kingston, Ontario by Stephe Walmsley in Senior Women and the Novice Dance Team of Bradley Keeping-Myra and Gina Cipriano. They performed very well finishing in eight and ninth positions respectively. Jill Knowles was the Team Leader for this event.

The section had a Strategic Planning Sessions with Skate Canada employees Norm Profit and Alex Kilby in attendance to lead us through the discussion. A number of individuals other than the board members were invited to this session to insure that the stakeholders within the section were included. We now have a new draft plan that can be rolled up into the Skate Canada Plan. To enable the section to move forward on this plan we will need involvement from all the stake holders which include skaters, parents, coaches, officials and board members from the club, region and section level.

2015 was a Canada Winter Games year and the section represented by 6 singles skater, a dance team and Special Olympic skaters. These skaters we support by a team consisting of Cheryl Gaston as team manager, Angie Coady-Pennington, John Mattatall and Mary-Ann Crowley as coaches and Lucie Webber as chaperone for the Special Olympians. These skaters represented the section with pride and skated to the best of their ability. Skate Canada Nova Scotia received numerous commitments on how our athletes conducted themselves at the games supporting each other and the athletes from other sports, Congratulations!

The 2015 SCNS STARSkate and Synchro Skating Championship were hosted by the Queens County Blades Skating Club in Liverpool on February 28th and March 1st 2015. The people, the venue, the

hospitality was great and thanks go out to Diane Hopper and her wonderful team of volunteers for contributing to the success of this event. This was a great competition and the skating was very good.

The 2015 World's Finest Chocolate Atlantic Canada Skating Championships was hosted by Skate Canada Nova Scotia in conjunction with Skate Canada Newfoundland, Skate Canada Prince Edward Island and Skate Canada New Brunswick on March 27th to 29th at the East Hants SportsPlex. This competition showcased some of the finest skaters in the Atlantic Canada which lead to many amazing performances. Many thanks to Joanne Byrne and here dedicated group of volunteers contributing to the success of this great event. We also had a number of senior officials from outside Atlantic Canada and all the three of the four sections in Atlantic Canada provided officials. This is an example how sections can work together for the betterment of skating and we hope we can expand this in future years.

Since 2009 our membership has dropped by almost 25 percent. Some clubs have increased their membership over this time period and the club that have lost member are both in rural and urban areas. Since most of our revenue is based on our numbers is means that are revenue is declining. With less revenue we may not be able to provide the same programs and services to the membership. We will have to work together to come up with new and innovative ways to provide the programs and services that our skaters have come to expect.

Skating is built on dedicated volunteers and I would like to thank all the volunteers at all levels for your dedication and support because without you skating would not happen for the athletes. We need to increase the number active volunteers to lessen the workload and to insure none of our volunteers burn out.

Specials thanks to all our officials for the time and expertise they give freely at competitions and test days for the benefit of the skaters.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors of Skate Canada Nova Scotia who gave freely of their time and expertise during the past year for the betterment of our sport. The commitment level of these individuals has been outstanding and they make work of the Chair so much easier.

Enough cannot be said about the hard work and commitment of our Executive Director Jill Knowles, without her our section would not be able to run as efficiently and effectively as it does.

Thanks go out to Sara Brown and Treena Landry as they finish their terms on the Section Board, Treena served as a member at large for two years and Sara served as the data specialists chair for four years.

Respectfully submitted,

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