

# SKATE CANADA NOVA SCOTIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 2016

This year has certainly brought huge technological challenges from our National Office, (and our own) starting in September when registration came to a virtual standstill and it has been catch up ever since. Please have patience as it is getting better and will be very much better when all the kinks are worked out. Skate Canada realizes that this has been a huge inconvenience to it's membership and is very grateful for your understanding.

New this year were the National Performance Centre Seminars, NPC Atlantic was a pilot project of Skate Canada for a virtual setting in Atlantic Canada and as a result 5 seminars were held for coaches & skaters in Atlantic Canada. Skaters were chosen to participate depending upon the focus of the seminar, all seminars had a high coach education piece which all coaches were welcome to attend, with the philosophy being, the stronger the coach, the stronger all their skaters will be.

Another new thing this year was Club Day, held in September it was an opportunity for us to share knowledge, this will be happening again this September and I encourage all clubs to send at least 1 person. If you have any topics that you would like covered please let me know.

Our officials were very busy as always with test days, competitions, monitoring and education. Their dedication to our skating community is something to be treasured volunteering countless hours away from their families each season to give our skaters opportunities to shine.

Skate Canada's Annual General Meeting & Convention and National Coaches Convention was held in Winnipeg May 2015, which was again very informative. This year's ACGM, now called the Ice Summit will be held in St. John's and it will be "A Time".

The Primary STARSkate Course (formerly Level 1 Phase 3) was successfully held in May 2015 under the guidance of Janet Harvey. The same course will be held May 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> in Quispamsis.

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. 2016 – 2017 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 Dieppe where the Maritimes came together, Challenge in Edmonton, Nationals in Halifax, Rob McCall Memorial, Provincial STARSkate and Synchro Championships in Amherst and the World's Finest Chocolate Atlantic Canada Skating Championships 2016. 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. I would be remiss in not highlighting the hosting of the 2016 Canadian Tire Skating Championships in Halifax, the Local Organizing Committee did an outstanding job with hundreds of volunteers welcoming Canada to our Province. The skating was fantastic and I was so pleased to have our own Bradley Keeping Myra and Gina Cipriano in Junior Dance and Stephanie Walmsley in Senior Women.

Our Board continues its strategic planning journey, which has given us a document to refer to while planning for the season and beyond. We also created this year a performance pathway, which similar to the strategic plan is giving us the framework for current and future accountability of our athletes in the competitive stream

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. KidSport gave skaters in our province over 25,000.00 worth of help this past year

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

Carol Breckon is retiring from her Board Positions this year, as Member at Large/Competitions, she has given many years to our sport and will be greatly missed. 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.

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. Skate Canada Nova Scotia Board are passionate people working on your behalf to great a wonderful skating environment no matter what part of the province you live in.

To our skaters we do it all for YOU, whether you are 3 years old or 93 years old we are so proud of your accomplishments and love to see your smiling faces at the rink.

Best of luck with the 2016 – 2017 Skating Season,

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Knowles  
Executive Director  
Skate Canada Nova Scotia

