

# Section Chair's Report

**2015-2016**

Skate Canada – Nova Scotia hosted its first Club Day, it was success and a lot of great information was shared with all that attended. A second Club Day is being planned for September; we are hoping this will become a yearly event. It is your day, please forward any idea for agenda items to the section office.

The 2016 Sectional Championships was a join event with New Brunswick hosted by the Dieppe Skating Club on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and was a very successful event. The people, the venue, the hospitality was great and thanks go out to the 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 again for the 2017 sectionals which will be held in Dieppe, New Brunswick in November 2016. This is an example how sections can work together for the betterment of skating and we hope we can expand this in future years.

This was the first year of operations for the National Performance Centre Atlantic and it provided great training opportunities for our skaters and coaches. There were four sessions offered this year and Nova Scotia had a good attendance and everyone that attended provided positive feedback. We hope that that Skate Canada along with the four Atlantic Sections can continue to provide this kind of opportunities to the skaters and coaches.

Fourteen single skaters and one dance team made up our challenge team in Edmonton, 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.

The Canadian Championships was held in Halifax in January 2016 with Skate Canada – Nova Scotia acting as the host. This a large task to recruit and schedule over 240 volunteers. The Local Organizing Committee(LOC) consisted of:

Skate Canada – Nova Scotia – Jill Knowles

Volunteer Recruitment Director - Jay and Dan Walmsley

Ice Operations Supervisor – Sarah Miles

Ceremonies Supervisor – Joanne Byrne

Printing Coordinator – Verna Wirth

Local Promotions Coordinator – Helen Dawe-Webb

Catering Supervisor – Tanya Guilderson

Practice Rink Supervisor – Angela Humber

Registration Supervisor – Kathy Aucoin

Media Centre Supervisor – Marni Tuttle

Security Supervisor – Juanita Bezanson

Guest Program Supervisor – Allison Scott and Jason Doucette

Transportation Supervisor – Will Cobbett

Logistics Supervisor – Robert Richer

Operations Supervisor – Susan Casey

Chief Medical Officer – Dr. Ryan Henneberry

Chief Therapist – Meredith Waisman

I felt we were extremely fortunate to be able to recruit a talented and dedicated LOC. The leadership shown by the LOC during the planning and execution of this event played a key part in making this event a success. We had great teams of volunteers who worked hard during the event and without all the volunteers we would not be able to deliver this calibre of an event. The efforts of the volunteers behind the scenes allowed the athletes to relax, and focus on what they do best, competing and presenting terrific skating for the fans. I know the skaters, coaches, team managers, families, officials, sponsors and Skate Canada staff greatly appreciate your efforts at this important event from the comments I received during the event.

The section was represented at the Canadian Championships by Stephie Walmsley in Senior Women and the Junior Dance Team of Bradley Keeping-Myra and Gina Cipriano. They performed very well and we are proud of their accomplishment. Jill Knowles was the Team Leader for this event.

The 2016 SCNS STARSkate and Synchro Skating Championship were hosted by the Amherst Skating Club on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and was a very successful event. The people, the venue, the hospitality was great and thanks go out to Will Cobbett 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.

The 2016 Word's Finest Chocolate Atlantic Canada Skating Championships was hosted by Skate Canada Nova Scotia in conjunction with Skate Canada Newfoundland & Labrador, Skate Canada Prince Edward Island and Skate Canada New Brunswick on April 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 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 go to the dedicated group of volunteers contributing to the success of this great event. There were a number of challenges this year with the ice plant falling on Friday night, the officials and others worked as team on Saturday morning to move the competition to the second ice surface so that the competition could go ahead for the skaters. This is an example how sections can work together for the betterment of skating and we hope we can expand this in future years.

Our membership has dropped again this year. Some clubs have increased their membership over the year and the club that have lost member are both in rural and urban areas. Since most of our revenue is based on our numbers it means that our 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 of 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. The following officials from this section attended National events, Sarah-Jane Raine, Vance Hazelton, Sheila Beard, Gregor McLean and Marie Bowness. A number of our officials attended competitions in others sections. We have highly trained officials and our skaters benefit from their knowledge.

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 Carol Breckon and Heather Dawe as they finish their terms on the Section Board, Carol served as competitions chair for 3 years and Heather has served as governance chair for three years and skater development chair for one year. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross