

SKATE CANADA NOVA SCOTIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 2018

Another year has flown by and our skaters have spent many hours on the ice throughout Nova Scotia.

The Primary STARSkate Course now known as the Regional Coach Course was successfully held in May 2017 under the guidance of Janet Harvey. The Regional Coach Course will be held May 19th to 21st 2018 at Cole Harbour Place, with newly trained Cheryle Gaston as the Facilitator. I would like to personally thank Janet for her dedication to our sport, her knowledge and professionalism has been a great guidance to many of coaches in the Maritimes. We continue to work with New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to offer courses. The CanSkate Coach training now known as the Club Coach, will be delivered in New Brunswick August 3rd to 5th in Quispamsis. John Mattatall has been trained as a Master Learning Facilitator for the new, and very much improved, CanPower Program being rolled out this fall.

Skate Canada's Ice Summit (formerly known as the Annual General Meeting & Convention and National Coaches Convention) was held in Ottawa June 1st to 4th, which was again very informative. This year's Ice Summit will be held in Calgary with the AGM being held on Saturday May 26th. PLEASE remember that all clubs and coaches can join the meeting and vote remotely, but you do have to register on www.skatecanada.ca under events. The Section will have several people attending, who can carry your vote.

One of the most exciting events that I could be part of this season was the Hall of Fame Ceremony when those persons who laid the foundation for skating today were honored. The Awards Committee had been working for a long time on this event and are now setting their sights on the next Ceremony and those to be honored.

I would like to say that it was an UPLIFTING summer, but there were struggles with learning the workings of the UpLifter Program. Sheila Beard was my rock during this process and together we are determined to make the 2018 -2019 Skating Season very UPLIFTING!

Club Day, was held in St Margaret's Bay on September 23rd where Monica Lockie from Skate Canada worked with our skaters, coaches, volunteers and parents on the new STAR 1 – 5 program. 2018 Club Day will be held in Kentville September 15th with Heather McMahon Skating Programs Coordinator, Skate Canada, who will be here to education everyone on STAR 6 to Gold.

This year the National Performance Centre Atlantic continued as a project of Skate Canada, for a virtual setting in Atlantic Canada. As a result, Vesna Markovich gave a great seminar on the basics of skating, Trena Graham worked with the skaters for off ice dance and performance, this was an excellent learning opportunity for coaches & skaters in Atlantic Canada.

The Canada Games Prospects Team has been active with skaters and coaches coming together on 3 occasions, 2 under the direction of Jen Jackson from the Hamilton Skating Club. Jenn's 30 years of coaching and legacy of champions is the right fit for the consistent development of our Canada Games Team. The Team will be chosen in December with the Games taking place February 2019 in Red Deer.

Our officials were very busy as always with test days, competitions, monitoring and education.

- Did you know that our officials will do video monitoring at any time throughout the year?

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. They have had many development opportunities both in and out of our province. We have some growth in the Judge's population but could certainly use some help with the Data Specialists growth (NO SKATING KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED).

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A reminder to all clubs to send in Executive Lists with e-mail addresses and phone numbers, this is very important for the communication of information. 2018 – 2019 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.

I was very fortunate to attend the following competitions, St Margaret's Bay Fall Skate, Sectionals in Amherst where the Maritimes came together once again, Challenge in Montreal, STAR 1-3 Pilot in Riverview, Atlantic Regional Synchronized Championships in Liverpool, Robert McCall Memorial in East Hants, Provincial STARSkate and Synchro Championships at the Pictou Wellness Centre and the Atlantic Canada Skating Championships 2018. 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.

December 10th was Skating Day in Canada, a highlight of the Canada 150 Celebrations. Every province and territory in Canada had a skating session open to the public and demonstration of skills. I would like to thank the Halifax Skating Club for hosting this event on behalf of Skate Canada. A legacy of the day was skates and helmets to be used throughout the province.

I continue to sit on several committees both at Sport Nova Scotia and Skate Canada representing the needs of skating in Nova Scotia.

I would like to thank our funding partners, for without whom many of our projects would not be possible, SUPPORT4SPORT, Sport Nova Scotia, the Department of Community, Culture & Heritage, Sport Fund and KidSport, Without KidSport funding many children would not have had the opportunity to skate in our province. 67 skaters were given a total of \$17,523.14 worth of help in registration fees and equipment this past year.

Special thanks to Jackie Atkinson, who does a great job keeping us all informed on the website and facebook. It was not without it's share of problems as our website was down for a few weeks, but it is back up and running looking better than ever.

Another skating season has gone by very quickly and with the help of volunteers and coaches, skaters have been on the ice with smiles on their faces. The Skate Canada Nova Scotia Board are passionate people working on your behalf to create a wonderful skating environment, no matter what part of the province you live in. They are here to help and support our skating community. It takes many people to build a section and/or club and keep them running successfully, the dedication of those people is invaluable to our sport and our communities.

I would like to personally thank 2 members who have been on our Section Board for countless years, Terry Ackles came on as South Shore Region Rep and moved into the role of Section Chair, our skaters have got to know Terry through monitoring, judging, attending clinics and team leading. Like the Section Chair before her, Joanne Byrne, Terry will remain an intricate part of the Awards and Hall of Fame Committees. Heather Dawe joined the Board in the role of Governance which with her legal background was certainly a good fit. As an adult skater, former national competitor and official taking on the Skater Development Committee was a good place to make a difference. Both ladies have given countless hours to our sport, and while I am sure they will continue to do so, they will be missed around the Board Table.

Ross Ashbourne will be moving to the position of past chair for the 2018 – 2019 season. Ross has made every decision for our Section with the best interest of the skaters in mind. He has asked our National Board to address some tough issues, which have ended up making a positive difference to the Sections. His commitment to our sport and making it better is evident every time he speaks. I would like to thank Ross not only for being our Section Chair, but for all the time he gives to skating as a Data Specialist.

I look forward to working with the new Board under the leadership of Sheila Beard, who brings a wealth of knowledge gained as an official and board volunteer in Alberta and Nova Scotia. With her passion and organizational skills the Section is very fortunate to have her in the role of Chair.

To every volunteer in Nova Scotia a big THANK YOU, whether you have given 1 hour, or 1000, sold 1 chocolate bar or a box full, each and every minute given makes a difference to our skating community.

I am only a phone call 425-5454 ext 336 or e-mail skatecanadans@sportnovascotia.ca away, and can be available to come to your club to help in whatever way possible.

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

Best of luck with the 2018 – 2019 Skating Season,

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Knowles
Executive Director
Skate Canada Nova Scotia

