

Section Chair's Report 2017-2018

The inaugural Award Ceremony of the Skate Canada – Nova Scotia Hall of Fame was held on June 10th, 2017 at the University Club, Dalhousie University, with 11 people being honoured. Thanks to the committee of Terry Ackles, Joanne Byrne, Juanita Bezanson and Jill Knowles who have been working hard over the past couple of years.

A successful Club Day was held on September 23, 2017 with Monica Lockie of Skate Canada being the guest presenter on the Star program. A lot of great information was shared with the clubs. The next Club Day will take place in September in Kentville with Heather McMahon being the guest presenter, to talk about the Star 6 – Gold Program.

The 2018 SCNS Sectional Championships hosted by the Amherst Skating Club on November 4th and 5th, 2017 as part of the combined sectionals and was a very successful event. The people, the venue, the hospitality was great and thanks go out to the Amherst Skating Club and the organizing committee and the wonderful team of volunteers for contributing to the success of this event. This was a great competition and the skating was very good. The 2018 Sectionals will be held in Amherst, Nova Scotia on November 4th and 6th, 2017, but it will not be a combined event with New Brunswick.

Seven single skaters and two dance teams made up our 2018 Challenge Team in Montreal, the commitment and dedication is admired. Congratulations to all the skaters for proudly representing the section. Thanks must go out to our Team Leader John Mattatall and Jill Knowles for their role with our team, which can be challenging. The 2019 Challenge event will be held in Edmonton.

The first Star 1 – 3 competition was hosted by Riverview Skating Club on January 21th and it was a huge success and we plan to have three next season in different regions of the section.

The 2018 Atlantic Synchronized Skating Championship was hosted by the Queens County Blades on January 28th and 29th, 2018. The people, the venue, the hospitality was great and thanks go out to a wonderful team of volunteers for contributing to the success of this event. This was a great competition and nice to see the growth and improvement in Synchronized skating

The 2018 SCNS STARSkate and Synchro Skating Championship was hosted by the Mariposa East Skating Centre on February 26th and 27th, 2018. The people, the venue, the hospitality was great and thanks go out to a wonderful team of volunteers for contributing to the success of this event. This was a great competition and the skating was very good.

The 2018 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 April 6th to 8th at the East Hants Sportsplex. This competition showcased some of the finest skaters in the Atlantic Canada which lead to many amazing performances. Thanks to volunteers contributing to the success of this great event. Every year it gets harder to get volunteers for this event, it is your event, please step forward next year and help us.

Thanks to the St. Margaret's Skating Club for hosting the 2017 Fall Skate and the Bedford and Halifax Skating Clubs for the hosting the 2018 Winter Skate. Your efforts are appreciated by the section and the skaters. Both these events had a large registration and we are looking at how we can accommodate the increasing number of skaters.

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. Each year we been able recruit and retain officials. All of our officials that are qualified to work at national events received an invitation and officiated at these events, this shows the quality of our officials and their dedication to the sport.

A number of Skate Canada – Nova Scotia members have been members of Skate Canada committees during the past year, thank-you for your efforts.

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. Heather Dawe is retiring from the Board this year and I would like to thank her for her six years of service in various roles. Thanks to Terry Ackles for her numerous years of service to the Board in many positions, as my Past Chair I have appreciated her guidance throughout the years.

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.

I am finishing my term as the Chair of Skate Canada – Nova Scotia and I would to say it was a rewarding experience. I pledge my support to the incoming Chair Shelia Beard and her Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Ashbourne