

SKATE CANADA NOVA SCOTIA ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019

WOW what an exciting year filled with opportunities for so many.

2018 AGM and Celebration On Ice was successfully held at the St Margaret's Centre. The "Think Tank" was a great addition, with clubs getting to share their struggles and successes. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our skating community both on and off the ice. The highlight is always our skaters on the ice with smiles big enough to light up the rink.

The Regional Coach Course was successfully held in May 2018 under the guidance of Cheryle Gaston. We continue to work with New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to offer courses. John Mattatall has been trained as a Master Learning Facilitator, for the CanPower Program and it is a great asset to the Section to be able to offer our own clinics.

Skate Canada's 2018 Ice Summit/AGM was held in Calgary May 24th to 26th, which was again very informative. Jill, Sheila and Ross attended the Ice Summit with Donna Baker and her husband as our Section Volunteer of Excellence.

I would like to say that it was an UPLIFTING summer, but there were struggles as we overcame the workings of the UpLifter Program. Sheila and Jill persevered through this process and together we are determined to master all that Uplifter has to offer. We were successful in adding the credit card payments to our account.

We have also embarked on another new learning curve Quickbooks. Moving our finances into the digital age will also be a huge learning curve. With the help of a new treasurer and Finance Committee we will strive to accomplish all that we need to in the upcoming year.

Much of the fall was taken up with the Sport Development Tool, the process of every sport reporting to the Government of Nova Scotia regarding what they have accomplished in the previous 4 years and the present health of the sport in the 4 areas of Participation, Coaching Officiating, Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness. This is the process used to determine provincial funding for the next quadrennial.

There has been a huge focus within Sport Nova Scotia as Jill attended multiple presentations. We would like to acknowledge that Skate Canada and therefore Skate Canada Nova Scotia is seen as a leader in this area. While we are doing a good job, we always need to be conscience of the safety and inclusiveness of our skating community.

Heather McMahon and Nicole Brady from Skate Canada presented 2 sessions on the CanSkate Program and how to make the best of your club's programs. Pictou Wellness Centre and St Margaret's Center provided both on and off ice time for coaches, program assistants and club volunteers in November.

This year the Skating Performance & Development Center (former National Performance Centre) Atlantic continued as a project of Skate Canada, for a virtual setting in Atlantic Canada. As a result, we had skaters attend the Jenn Jackson Seminar September in Newfoundland and again December in Amherst. These seminars continue to be great learning opportunities for our skaters and coaches.

The Canada Games Prospects Team was active with skaters and coaches coming together on 2 occasions, under the direction of Jenn 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 was chosen in December, PreNovice Women; Cate McKee and Brooke Pennington, PreNovice Men; Jacob Cote and Cameron Boulter, PreNovice Dance; Jailyn Elliott & Dawson Munro, Novice Women; Alyssa Cross and Kayla Deveau, Novice Men; Parker Clements and Tye Dacey, Special Olympians Level 3 Jessica Cranton and Scott Denyes. Coaches that accompanied the Team to Red Deer were John Mattatall & Tom Jackson, SO coach Cheryle Gaston and Jill had the honor of being the Manager. Skate Canada Nova Scotia was honored to have 2 officials attend the Canada Games, Gregor MacLean and Sheila Beard. Red Deer was an amazing experience for all, with Jessica and Scott bringing home silver medals.

As always our officials had a very busy season 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. 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).

Our pilot STAR 1 – 3 competition from last year grew to 3 competitions this year. They were so successful we had to close registration early on the last one of the season. Taking the STAR 1- 3 events out of Robert McCall Memorial and STARSkate Provincials, made those competitions more manageable. Thank you to all the clubs who hosted competitions giving our skaters opportunities to shine. A wonderful addition to the Atlantic Canada Skating Championships this year was having Eastlink capture some of the skating.

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. 2019 – 2020 Club requirements will again be, the signature of the Privacy Policy on behalf of their members, Annual General Meeting Minutes and Financial Statements. We 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.

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

We 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.

Special thanks to Jackie Atkinson, who does a great job keeping us all informed on the Website Instagram and Facebook.

We are losing three Board Members this year:

Fallis Thompson, Member at Large has, served on and chaired numerous committees, giving her coaching perspective with a focus on synchronized skating.

Juanita Bezanson has given countless hours to our sport since 1980, she has held positions at the Club, Region and Section level always placing the best interest of the skaters first and foremost. Most recently she has been the Section Treasurer since 1993. She was always there to lend a helping hand and will be missed by all who knew her around the rinks of Nova Scotia and beyond.

Bradley Keeping Myra, Athlete Representative as this role is being phased out following the guidelines of best practices.

There will be some new faces around the Board Table for the upcoming season and we look forward to working with them.

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.

Our Section office is only a phone call 425-5454 ext 336 or e-mail skatecanadans@sportnovascotia.ca away, and we 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 2019 – 2020 Skating Season,

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Knowles
Executive Director
Skate Canada Nova Scotia



Sheila Beard
Chair

