

SKATE CANADA NOVA SCOTIA ANNUAL REPORT 2019 – 2020

What an interesting year with the unexpected COVID – 19 impacting us all. We will not be able to be together on May 2nd at our Annual General Meeting or Celebration on Ice. Our plan is to come together in September to hold our AGM and acknowledge our award winners and nominees.

2019 AGM and Celebration On Ice was successfully held at the Sackville Sports Stadium with guest Mary Ellen MacDonald from Skate Canada. The Coaches AGM was held at the same time. As always the highlight is our skaters on the ice with smiles big enough to light up the rink. It takes many people to aid in the success of the day, those attending the AGM (we always need quorum), award winners and nominees, our Section Board, the Celebration on Ice Committee and the volunteers from the Sackville Skating Club.

The Regional Coach Course was successfully held in May 2019 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 we held the first course in Amherst October 5th & 6th with 6 attendees.

Skate Canada's 2018 Ice Summit/AGM was held in Ottawa May 23rd to 25th, which was again very informative. Sheila Beard Section Chair, Jill Knowles Executive Director and Tanya Guilderson Officials Chair attended the Ice Summit with Terry Ackles and her guest Terrie Logue 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.

Moving our finances into the digital age will also be a huge learning curve and we have left Quickbooks for a new program Xero, which is much more user friendly. With the help of our treasurer and Finance Committee we will strive to accomplish all that we need to in the upcoming year. I big thank you to Michael LeBlanc from Grant Thornton for his help and patience.

Heather McMahon and Monica Lockie from Skate Canada joined us at the East Hants Sportsplex on September 14th & 15th for some very intense learning of the STAR Assessment Program. This was for all coaches & club executive on the 14th with the focus on STAR 1-5. We looked at what was working and how to make it work better for your club. On the 15th the coaches & officials were hands on at the STAR 6 to Gold presentations. Since then Skate Canada has made some significant revisions to the training of STAR 6 to Gold, which have been, and are continuing to be rolled out this spring.

As always our officials had a very busy season with test and assessment days, competitions, monitoring and education.

The scoring system program was updated by Skate Canada and as a result we had to replace the computers used at competitions. This was a great expense, but a necessity for our skaters to compete. (Our previous computers were approximately 15 years old.)

Our Officials 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).

Sectionals was held in New Brunswick November 1st to 3rd for the 3 Maritime Provinces. Four skaters qualified to represent Nova Scotia at the Challenge Competition in Edmonton November 27th to December 1st. Skate Canada Nova Scotia had put jump requirements as well as a 90% of the minimum score in place, to qualify for Challenge, which saw more double axels and higher jumps than in past seasons

STAR 1 – 3 competitions were held January 8th in Bedford, February 17th in Kentville and March 8th in Sackville and we were very disappointed to have to cancel the April 4th in Pictou County due to COVID - 19. FallSkate was hosted by the Queens County Blades and the Bridgewater Skating Clubs November 23rd & 24th, the Robert McCall Memorial February 7th to 9th in St Margaret's Bay and Provincials in Amherst February 22nd & 23rd. Our skaters from STAR 5 to Gold and Pre Juvenile to Novice qualified to compete at the 2020 Atlantic Canada Skating Championships in Paradise Newfoundland, only to face disappointment when the competition was cancelled again due to COVID – 19. The 2021 Atlantic Canada Skating Championships will be held in Newfoundland March 26th to 28th 2021.

Thank you to all the clubs who hosted competitions giving our skaters opportunities to shine.

Safe Sport is being revised on both a National and Provincial level. We attended workshops Nationally in October and January and Provincially monthly. This is a very important area for all stakeholders to be aware of as we move forward.

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. 2020 – 2021 Club requirements will again be, 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.

As Section Chair and Executive Director continue to sit on several committees 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 two Board Members Marni Tuttle, Member at Large has been our Marketing & Public Relations Chair for the past 2 years and Susan Higdon was the Highland Region Rep.

We are hoping 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 Canadians, we are so proud of your accomplishments and love to see your smiling faces at the rink.

Best of luck with the 2020 – 2021 Skating Season,

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Knowles
Executive Director
Skate Canada Nova Scotia

Sheila Beard
Chair

