

# SKATE CANADA NOVA SCOTIA

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2020 – 2021

Unfortunately, COVID – 19 continued to impact us all during the 2020 – 2021 skating season. We will not be able to be together on May 5<sup>th</sup> in person at our Annual General Meeting or Celebration on Ice, but we are able to be together via Zoom, so grateful to technology for helping us through the year.

There have been many positives during the past months gathering more often via Zoom with Board, Town Hall, Club and Committee Meetings. Please know that Skate Canada Nova Scotia is available at anytime to have a meeting with your club and all questions are welcome. If you wish to hold your club AGM with Zoom and do not have an account Skate Canada Nova Scotia would be happy to facilitate the meeting.

Nova Scotia was most fortunate to be back on the ice in the summer and for the most part remain on the ice with covid protocols in place throughout the year. While numbers for the CanSkate Programs have been impacted for some clubs and new to the ice skaters limited, we sincerely hope that the numbers next season rebound, and our clubs continue to produce our next generation of skaters.

Assessment Days have continued to happen throughout the province as well as monitoring of skaters both in person and via video. Thank you to all the officials, assessment chairs and coaches who helped these happen so successfully!

We have unfortunately lost a few clubs in our Section this year, some due to COVID and rink closures, some due to no available coaches and some as there were no volunteers to manage the club. Any loss of a skating club is most unfortunate for the skaters in that community.

Despite the challenges of the year our financial picture looks good and that is greatly due to significant Government help. The Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage is to be thanked not only for the assistance given to the Section, but also to the clubs in the province that applied. The Canada Emergency Business Account Loan has given us a cushion until the portion of the loan will be repaid in 2022. We continue to work with the Xero Accounting Program, learning more each month that will help us to give the most accurate financial picture possible.

One of the highlights of the year has been the monthly Team Challenges that were held from October to March over 2000 ribbons have been awarded to skaters from 14 clubs. Skaters were creative in their costumes, have given great ideas as to content and their smiles and talent were inspiring. Thanks to all who participated and our officials who gathered monthly to assess the elements.

Congratulations to Alyssa Cross who was the first Nova Scotian to compete virtually in the Junior Women category at Challenge, which like all competitions Nationally were not able to be held in person.

It was also with the best interest of our skating community's safety and wellbeing that no competitions were held in Nova Scotia, but very much looking forward to a more normal competition in 2021 – 2022.

As our competitions are once again being held next season there is a critical need for Data Specialists, those are the persons who look after the results. NO SKATING KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED and if we do not have some volunteers come forth for these positions holding competitions will be exceedingly difficult or costly if it is needed to bring persons in from other parts of Canada. Please contact skatecanadans@sportnovascotia if you are interested in giving of sometime.

Assessment Days were held regularly throughout the province and new officials have completed their online portion of training.

A reminder to all clubs to send in Executive Lists with e-mail addresses and phone numbers, this is particularly important for the communication of information. 2021 – 2022 Club requirements will again be, the club's Annual General Meeting Minutes and Financial Statements. We would urge all clubs to look at their by-laws in detail to see if the needs of your club are being met by this document. By-laws 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 met weekly throughout the past year keeping up with the ever-changing regulations and how to work with them.

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, Skate Canada and KidSport. Without KidSport funding, many children would not have had the opportunity to skate in our province. In 2020 KidSport provided \$11,862.85 for 46 skaters to enjoy our sport.

We hope that you are enjoying the new look and information on the website, special thanks to Jackie Atkinson, who has done an amazing job for us with our social media platforms.

We are profoundly grateful to everyone in the skating community in Nova Scotia this year for being so supportive and understanding of this ever-changing year.

As a Section we are here to help whatever your questions or concerns maybe, we are only an e-mail [skatecanadans@sportnovascotia.ca](mailto:skatecanadans@sportnovascotia.ca) away. We can be available to come to your club, or Zoom with you, to help in whatever way a club may need, covid protocols allowing.

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 2021 – 2022 Skating Season,

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Knowles  
Executive Director  
Skate Canada Nova Scotia

Sheila Beard  
Chair

