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2009 Annual General Meeting and Awards

AGM's are held to inform members of previous and future activities of an organization and is generally the forum used for the election of officers and directors of the organization. This business meeting is an excellent opportunity to get informed to ask questions about the great work done on behalf of the members and clubs in our section. This year's AGM was held in Thunder Bay on May 1 to 2.

Prior to business meeting, Isabelle Cayer, Skate Canada's Competitive Coaching Programs Manager, presented information on Long-term Athlete Development (LTAD). The presentation was very informative and interactive. Isabelle asked the group for input on a series of questions such as:

- ⇒ Is the skating skills test program working?
- ⇒ What would you think if we allowed coaches to evaluate some tests?
- ⇒ Should the national organization now standardize CanSkate events?
- ⇒ Instead of placing skaters first through last at this early level, what would you think if we had skaters perform to a Bronze, Silver, Gold standard in "events"?

As you can see from the questions, LTAD will impact every aspect of skating. At the presentation, there were club representatives, coaches, officials, and section board members. Many different answers, opinions, and suggestions were shared with Isabelle. Skate Canada's Members Only section, has posted a copy of the PowerPoint presentation used at the information session as well as all the speaker notes; so you too can be informed. In addition, you are asked to provide input as Skate Canada moves through the various stages of the LTAD implementation.

At the annual general meeting, the membership approved the new board of directors as well as several amendments to the SCNO constitution.

We then took time to celebrate our many outstanding volunteers at our Annual Awards Dinner and presentations. Pages two and three of this newsletter has more information on each of these amazing individuals. New this year, we recognized long-time officials with the Career Volunteer Recognition awards. We honored Dick Fry, Candace Logozzo and June McRae for their many years of service. It was then time to show our appreciation to the retiring board members. Felix Blasky, Karen Rogowski and Sarah Bros were presented with a gift and words of thanks for their time and commitment to the Section. Next year, the Annual General Meeting will be in Sudbury on May 1. Plan to attend!

Posting on our Website

In April and May, clubs posted "congratulations" notes on our website. Every registered website member can submit a *short* news article to post on the website. Once you are logged onto our website, click on "Submit News" which is below the Navigation Menu. Enter a Subject line and the article. "Preview News" allows you to look at your article. After you review the article, click the "Submit News." The webmaster will review the article and post the article for one week.

"Volunteering is good
for the heart and the
soul."

"Volunteers don't get
paid, not because
they're worthless, but
because they're
priceless."

"Volunteers do not
necessarily have the
time; they just have
the heart."

Inserts:

AGM Report Book

Order Form—Ontario
Promotional Contest

Skate Canada Northern Ontario—Achievement Awards

Congratulations to the following skaters and volunteers who were recognized at our Section AGM in Thunder Bay on May 2, 2009.



BMO CanSkater of the Year - Jay Chen, Thunder Bay FSC

Jay became a member of the Thunder Bay FSC after he attended a “Bring a Friend” session. He is the first skater on the ice and the last one to leave. Just look for the boy with the white figure skates. He is working on CanSkate Level 5 and hopes to be “figure skating” by the spring session.



STARSkate Athlete - Dakota Warkentin, Thunder Bay FSC

Dakota has completed her senior silver free skate along with her gold skills, interpretive, and dances. She has also passed one diamond dance. She competes at local competitions, Interclub and Festival of STARS. Dakota is involved in many activities at her school and in her community. Skating has helped Dakota develop confidence in her abilities, taught her how to set goals, and ways to improve her work ethic.

Program Assistant - Natalie Callewaert, Dryden FSC

Natalie has been a dedicated Program Assistant for seven years at the Dryden Skating Club. She helps with the KinderSkate, CanSkate and Junior programs. She volunteers to play music at test days and competitions. Natalie volunteers because that is what you do in life...give back.



Section Officials - June McRae, Kirkland Lake FSC

June McRae has been volunteering within the skating community for over 50 years. She is an active judge at 82 years young, travelling to Interclubs and invitational competitions in her section. June says that she has loved figure skating all of her life and never miss an event that she can drive to or watch on television. The reward of volunteering – “seeing the success of our young skaters.”



Section Volunteer Coach - Abbie Drolet, Little Current-Howland FSC

Abbie has helped to bring this club out of financial hardship and increase their membership beyond expectations. She organizes fundraising activities, helps the executive to recruit new volunteers and meet financial deadlines. Abbie spends a great deal of her time sewing costumes, teaching the other volunteers to sew, and making it all seem like fun.



Section Volunteer - Julia Mullins, Fort William FSC

Julia has been volunteering within the skating community for 15 years as a skater and now as a judge. Julia judges at numerous competitions, evaluates at test days and monitors skaters at the two local Thunder Bay clubs. She is her region’s judges chairperson, helps plan judge/evaluator clinics and recruits new judges. Julia says that “I am glad that I am able to contribute to our skaters’ success if only in a small manner.”



Volunteer Award of Excellence - Lyn Mullins, Fort William FSC

Lyn has been involved in the skating community at the club, region and section levels for 23 years. This year, she was the Chairperson of the 2009 BMO Skate Canada Sectional competition. Her committee went out of their way to provide a well organized competition with many special touches just for the skaters. Lyn’s philosophy on volunteering is that “she enjoys learning from people and new situations. Skating is a sport that keeps changing and I enjoy being a part of it.”

Skate Canada Northern Ontario—Achievement Awards



Northern Ontario Club Volunteer – Noreen Nichol, Nickel Blades SC

Noreen holds many executive positions within the Nickel Blades SC. Most weeks she puts in at least 25 hours of volunteering for the club while working a full time job and taking care of her family. She does not take a break from organizing or planning even during the summer. Noreen is instrumental in bringing the registration numbers up with her innovation, persistence and dedication to the sport of skating. The Nickel Blades SC has received the Skate Canada CanSkate Challenge Award for the Northern Ontario Section for two years in a row thanks in part to Noreen. She never loses focus on what a skating club is all about – the children of our community.

Annual General Meeting—James Bay Region

The meeting was held in Cobalt. Several clubs attended and a superb meal was hosted by the Cobalt Figure Skating Club. The new region board held a short meeting afterward to get next season underway.

The recipients of the 2008–2009 James Bay Region awards are:

CanSkater of the Year

Jade Genier - Cochrane FSC

STARSkater of the Year

Meaghan Walsh - Timmins-Porcupine FSC

Club Coach of the Year

Lily Beaupre-Hachez - Kapuskasing FSC

Club of the Year

Kapuskasing FSC

Lily Dulong Award

June McRae, Kirkland Lake FSC

2009-2010 Board of Directors

The following board positions were elected or acclaimed at Annual General Meeting in Thunder Bay:

Chair	Wendy St. Denis
Past Chairperson and Membership	Jane Drolet
Vice Chairperson – Teams	Traci Fong
Vice Chairperson – Finance and Administration	Therese Bilborough
Evaluators/Judges	Mary Henderson
Secretary/Treasurer	Vacant
Data Specialists	Vacant
Coaches' Representative	Nancy McAllister
Skating Programs/Volunteer Development	Lyn Mullins
Synchronized Skating	Krista Chamberlain
Skaters' Development	Tammy Eckman
Marketing /Public Relations	Rachael Lapierre
Championship	Marie Malcolm
Athletes' Representative	Eric Charette
Algoma Region Director	Karen Ross
James Bay Region Director	Trudy Owens
Near North Region Director	Kit O'Brien
Rainbow Country Region Director	Heidi Duhamel
Sunset Country Region Director	Kathryn Makl
Thunder Country Region Director	Carolyn Stewardson

Qualifying Competition Dates

2010 BMO Financial Group Skate Canada-Northern Ontario Sectional Championship

October 29–November 1
Huntsville

2010 Festival of STARS

February 12–14
Sault Ste Marie

2008-2009 President's CanSkate Challenge Winner

This year, Lake Superior FSC was the winner for our section. The club has won two all-event tickets to the 2010 BMO Canadians Figure Skating Championships in London, Ontario.

believe...

The theme for this year's AGM was believe. As we reflected and reviewed our vision for the future it was agreed that the theme "believe" is a great inspiration for us as we plan our events and activities in an Olympic year. The board of directors are sharing their quotes with you...



...anything is possible if we work together. When we believe in our Board, and our members, we can accomplish anything. Let's reach for new heights. *Carolyn*

...that with the dedication of our team, we will have a very successful year. I believe that we are on the right track in helping our athletes soar to new heights. *Therese*

...we are making strides to fill the gap in evaluator/judge availability for competitions and test days. Our current crops of low level evaluators/judges are growing, and I believe they are all keen to move higher as quickly as possible. I believe the JEED committee members are taking proactive steps to make this happen and ease the strain on judges/evaluators in our Section who are currently being over called on to do extra duty. *Mary*

...that the Section Board has competent and caring volunteers who are available to help the skaters, clubs and regions of northern Ontario.

...communication and inclusion are key to a dynamic and progressive team. I believe we can be that team. I believe working together we can accomplish great things to support our Section skaters. *Marie*



...at the SCNO Annual General Meeting held in Thunder Bay, we saw what can happen when we strive to achieve. With the hard work and dedication of this Northern Ontario Board of Directors, I believe there are better things to come for all our members in this upcoming year. *Lyn*

...in the SCNO board. *Heidi*



...in the power of a dream. *Rachael*



...skating is alive and well and living in Northern Ontario! I Believe in the Passion that the countless volunteers have for all of their clubs and for all of the skaters. That passion was evident in the voices of the speakers and award winners at the AGM and was heard around the room in the conversations. THAT was MY favorite part of the weekend! *Nancy*

...that volunteering is a special and satisfying gift we give to others! *Trudy*

...the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. *Wendy*

Do you believe? We would like you to share with us too. Share your stories of success and dreams for the future by submitting articles for the newsletter or by submitting information to our "discussion forum" on the SCNO website.

Alumni Reunion

We were fortunate to have a very special guest speaker tell us a bit about the amazing career he had following his competitive skating years. Mr. Tom Collins was a surprise guest who came in to help celebrate the many years of volunteer work that June McRae has contributed to SCNO. Mr. Collins worked in the gold mines of Kirkland Lake to help pay for skating lessons before moving on to ice show skating in the production of Hollywood Ice Revue in 1949. He moved over to Holiday on Ice in 1951, rising up through the ranks from skater to tour manager and then producer of Holiday on Ice. He promoted many rock shows and produced Champions on Ice. Mr. Collins has been inducted to the ISU, United States FSA and Skate Canada Hall of Fames as acknowledgement of his work as a builder. Thanks Tom, for sharing your belief in everyone's ability to succeed!