

# **Speed Skate New Brunswick Patinage de Vitesse Nouveau-Brunswick**

## **2012 President's Report**

### **Introduction**

The 2011-2012 speed skating season was dynamic as always. With less focus on the Canada Winter Games our committees had more time to iron out some possible kinks that were implemented in last year's hectic season. This year our board focused on perfecting the implementation of the new competitions format, continued work on LTAD and a dedicated focus on the financial challenges our organization is facing. Another major change that Speed Skate New Brunswick faced was the addition of a high performance coach, another employee for our organization.

### **Finances**

The 2011 speed skating season ended on poor financial terms with less than 200 dollars in the bank. However, numbers aren't the only measure of a financial situation. We hadn't performed a financial review in over four years (our government requires a review every year) and we were also scheduled for an audit. On top of that, some of our documents needed to be in better shape. Luckily, our new financial director was more than up to the task. Our board acted responsibly and voted in favor of an audit and financial reviews, despite its high cost and our inadequate income. In turn, our first 2 months of operations we budgeted very low. All committees saw a cut to funds as we awaited the results of our audit.

Thankfully it turned out for the better. Once the dust settled from four financial reviews and an audit we found ourselves with not only enough money to carry on for the season but also a significant amount of backed up HST returns (unclaimed in 5 years) to be comfortable for the year!

However this is obviously not a sustainable source of income. Our organization needs to develop a plan to generate more revenues from sources outside of membership fees and government grants. Light brain storming happened in the last year on this but with the influx of funds and an already hectic financial schedule it took the back burner. It is something I hope to continue in the upcoming year.

### **High Performance Coach**

In summer 2011 I had my first of many meetings with Government New Brunswick and Canadian Sports Center Atlantic. They had created funding to pay 75% of a high performance coach for sports organizations in this province. After an application and hiring process we submitted Derrick MacLeod's name as the high performance coach of Speed Skate New Brunswick. He and four other coaches across the province were selected for their organizations. In mid November he began his work with the Province. We are currently utilizing our high performance coach for the training and development of top level athletes in a centralized training facility in Fredericton. The high performance coach will work with skaters from across the province as well as help in coaching development. Because we have been with

this program for less than a year there are still some curricular and technical options on the table and we are still taking feedback from our members as well as the interested parties to address these issues.

### **Other Positives**

For the first time in a handful of years we had a full board of directors this year. All our committee chairs were filled with dedicated volunteers to whom I express constant gratitude. Without any of them the organization cannot run smoothly. There is still some work to be done as a whole, but this fact alone is tremendous. Along with our committee members we also had great representation from club representatives/presidents.

Our LTAD initiatives continue to get recognition from the New Brunswick Government, who is a big promoter of long term athlete development. As a province and as clubs we continue to receive grants to promote our LTAD for all ages. This is perfect as it also increases the amount of annual funding we receive from the government.

The competitions committee again had their plate full trying to adapt and adjust to the constant changes from speed skate Canada. It affected a few areas (such as provincial champions, elimination of an age class meet). Generally reception to their efforts were pretty good, however we are aware of some displeasure and will work to smooth it out over the next year. The fact is with such quick change the competitions committee had to think on their toes and did so admirably.

### **Room for Improvement**

First and foremost, Officials will be one of my top priorities in the next year. It is an area in which we are struggling in both recruitment and retention. We need officials to run meets and I simply haven't been giving officials development the attention it deserves.

Continuing with Officials, but this affects other areas of the organization, we need to start filling more committee positions. The officials committee needs a few more members, but competitions and AD Are also not full. We also want to start working with a finance committee (including the Financial director of all clubs) so we can get a better grasp on money in the province. Further on the topic of committees we are looking to resurrect our Club and Membership Development committee. We had a great man in charge for a few years however no committee under him and no direction for him to follow. This is an important committee for growing the sport in the province. Plans for the near future involve putting together a ad hoc job description for this position and hoping to entice someone.

As mentioned before the organization is going to look at drawing income from other sources or saving money in areas. We have had initial discussions with some Paramedic associations in New Brunswick to try and get a contract for our meets. There are areas we can save and/or earn money without hindering the our membership and we need to look for and utilize these open doors.

## **Conclusion**

In my second year as Chairman of the Board of Speed Skate New Brunswick I was thrilled to be surrounded by the volunteers we had. This includes club level and board level. The volunteering in the province and sport is phenomenal and inspiring. There are many positives to look at over the last two years, but none that can be dwelled on. Our organization will continue to press forward to improve the experience of our officials, coaches, volunteers and athletes of all ages; all of whom are critical to the development and ongoing of our beautiful sport.