

Eastern Regionals Host

The 2013 Short Track Regionals East took place in Halifax Nova Scotia this year, which is but a short drive away for many of our volunteers. The top-talent meet provided an excellent opportunity for many of our volunteers to pair up with experts from outside of the province for a valuable development experience. It helped equally that our officials development had underspent on its budget for the season and we were able to provide some funding to the volunteers in attendance.

Many partnerships were formed and friendships were made allowing opportunities in the upcoming years for continuous development. We are hoping to budget a trip to Ontario for our meet recorder next season to further improve her abilities and bring that knowledge back to our competitions and volunteer development initiatives.

It is my opinion that opportunities for development is a driving factor behind volunteer retention, and the national competition in Halifax allowed up to venture down this road, creating relationships that can be explored in years to come.

Finances and Membership

Our membership stayed steady this year, however our top end, older skaters dispersed significantly, leaving us with a very young core (this in turn created difficulties for our HP program). A handful of volunteers have stepped up to help solve the problem and formed a Club and Membership Development committee for the next season that will look at member generation, member retention, promotions and partnerships for Speed Skate New Brunswick. It will be an exciting venture using Social Media and a large amount of additional techniques that have emerged since our last CMD committee in 2007.

Other plans for the next season include an awards and recognition banquet for skaters, officials, volunteers and coaches. During the off season we hope to plan for this and have something prepared for the 2013 season.

Speed Skate New Brunswick faired okay financially this year. With a large reserve in our accounts we allowed ourselves to run a little over budget without charging the clubs additional fees as we have done in the past. A project for the summer is to discuss with our financial director a better way of collecting club contributions from our clubs as the current system is difficult to budget for on both ends. We also need to diversify our income ... but this is a difficult task for any organization that relies as heavily on government funds as we do, especially as we do not want to charge our membership more. The price raise from SSC and the rising cost of ice time have already made membership fees far higher than desired. Along with equipment costs, they are a large barrier to entry for our sport.

Other news

A few other minor things have happened over the course of this season as well. Notably, the summer camp that has been held in Fredericton for the last 6 years is on the move. It will be hosted by the Saint John club in Quispamsis for the following two years. From that point on we hope to continue rotating this camp as we believe it provides great opportunities for host clubs, although it does come alongside a large administrative burden.

Our provincial coach, high performance coach, Athlete and Coaching Development Committee and a plethora of other individuals have begun work on our Canada Games Team. A favorite project for our organization, we spent the end of our season re-engineering the team standards and the training camp schedule for the 2015 event. There will be more work done over the next year to choose our team coaches and personnel, and, the following season, our athletes.