



FASSCI – Fredericton Amateur Speed Skating Club

President's report 2023-2024 season

May 29, 2024

Season Summary

LTS program

The club was able to put on another incredibly successful Learn to Skate (LTS) program last year. We had 65 participants register (we maxed out), and many others on a wait list as this continues to be the club's most popular program.

Mini-meet / try it event

We put on a combination mini-meet / try it event to allow our B and C group skaters to have a fun end of year club meet, as well as try and recruit new skaters to the sport. We invited our LTS advanced skaters, as well as some ringette players, to join in the fun.

C group

This year we had 21 skaters in our C group, which is a 150% increase over the previous 2 years and gets us back to a pre-COVID level. The club was very focused on increasing this group as this is the feeder program to our B and A groups.

B group

This year our B group saw a slight decrease from the previous year, from 14 down to 12. We are hopeful that with the increase in our C group, several kids will move up into this group to increase our numbers at this level. Our ideal target is 20.

A group

As we anticipated, our A group dropped significantly from 13 down to 6 as our athletes aged out of the sport or dropped out given that they are not eligible for the next Canada Games. We were not overly concerned about this as it was expected, and we hope to grow this group steadily over the next several years, feeding in from our B and C groups (thus the focus on the C group), as the next Canada Games approaches.

Additional events

The club was able to put on several additional events throughout the season, including:

- Fun nights for Halloween, Christmas, and St. Patrick's Day
- Bring a friend night for our C group
- A hugely successful end of season party

- A “thank you” event for Derrick as he moves onto a new role with SSNB
- Increased social media presence with 2 new platforms promoting the club (Instagram and TikTok)

Competition summary

Our club put on the 37th annual Harold Joyce meet in November this year. We had 123 skaters participate across the 2-day competition, with skaters from 11 clubs. We were fortunate that Nunavut chose to attend our meet which helped increase our numbers.

Thanks to the hard work of our meet organizers and volunteers, the meet ran smoothly and successfully. We are looking forward to the 38th annual version and hoping to get registration numbers back up to the 125 – 150 range with local clubs.

Financial position

The FASSCI club is in excellent financial position. For the 2023-2024 season, the club is estimating a small deficit of ~\$1,800. This was an anticipated shortfall however as we made some significant investments in activities and equipment to try and grow the club. In terms of our bank account, the club currently sits with a very healthy ~\$73K in reserve. The club is in good standing with SSNB and all membership fees for SSNB and SSC are paid.

The club applied for an SSC grant related to the LTS / C group programs to help launch a new curriculum and improve the program. Our application was accepted, and the club has received a grant of \$2,500 for this.

Coaching volunteers

FASSCI could not operate without the help of its volunteer coaches, so we would like to thank the following coaches for making our skater’s experience so good:

- A / B / C group:
 - o Derrick McLeod
 - o Steve Harris
 - o Isaac Gallagher
 - o Andrea Bower
 - o Conor Murray
 - o Mia Stewart
 - o Christine Adams
- LTS:
 - o Derrick McLeod
 - o Riley Adams
 - o John Ward
 - o Ben Clement
 - o Keshia Matthews

- Emilio Carretero
- Harry Earle
- Jeff Stymiest
- A / B Group Skaters

Club's board and volunteers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and board members who help make the club run. There were so many volunteer parents who helped with the various club activities throughout the season and our thanks goes out to all of them.

Here is a list of the board members:

- President – John Ward
- Vice President – Jean Benoit Clement
- Treasurer – Rebecca Blight
- Secretary – Wendy Monk
- Meet coordinator – Erica Ward
- Head Coach – Derrick MacLeod
- Equipment – Jeff Stymiest and Adam Leclerc
- Registrar – Adam Leclerc
- Social media / Event coordinator – Susan Tao

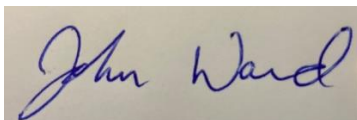
Looking forward

The club has some key initiatives that we will be focusing on in the coming year – the biggest being the replacement of Derrick as our head coach and putting a coaching infrastructure in place for the season. The club are also seeing a turnover in the President and Meet coordinator positions, however we have put a recruitment committee in place and are having success finding candidates to fill the critical roles.

Some key initiatives for this season are:

- Continue offering the full LTS program
- Soliciting sponsorship from the community
- Offering the Harold Joyce meet
- Implementing rentals / equipment sales through IceReg
- Work with the Multicultural Association to attempt to attract athletes to the sport

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Ward". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

John Ward
President, Fredericton Amateur Speed Skating Club