



Fredericton Amateur Speed Skating Club

President's / Board Report
2024-2025 Season

October 2025

FASSCI – Fredericton Amateur Speed Skating Club

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Season Overview

This season was one of transition and teamwork for the Fredericton Amateur Speed Skating Club. With both our Head Coach (Derrick) and President (John) stepping down, the club faced many unknowns at the start of the year. Despite these challenges, the board and volunteer base stepped up to ensure that the club not only continued to operate smoothly but also set a strong foundation for the years ahead.

Through many early-summer planning meetings—perhaps more than we needed—we were able to define clear objectives for the 2024–25 season. The main focus became strengthening our development pipeline, or as we called it, ‘feeding the funnel.’ Our goal was to ensure the long-term health of the club by growing our Learn to Skate (LTS) and C Group programs to create a steady progression of skaters into the higher groups.

Programs and Participation

Based on registration data presented at our 2025 AGM, the club maintained **stable overall membership** again this season, with **103 total skaters** across all programs. This stability is an encouraging sign during a year of transition, and it reflects the strong community engagement and retention efforts of our coaching and volunteer teams.

Learn to Skate (LTS)

Our Learn to Skate program once again reached full capacity, with **63–65 participants** registered across the 15-week session. Demand remains high, with a waitlist continuing throughout the season. This consistency shows that LTS continues to be one of the club's strongest entry points and a vital contributor to long-term athlete development. Many participants have already expressed interest in continuing with our C Group next year, demonstrating that our initiatives to bridge LTS into speed skating are working.

C Group

This season, our **C Group included between 15 and 19 skaters**, including **12 new members**, some of whom graduated from LTS. This represents a slight dip from last season's 21 skaters. The group remained energetic and engaged, benefiting from structured coaching and mentorship opportunities. Our focus on retention at this level — through invitations to mini meets, special events, and trial practices — continues to pay dividends, as the majority of these skaters plan to return next season.

B Group

The **B Group** maintained steady participation with **11–14 skaters**, comparable to last season's 12. While this group has remained relatively consistent in size, the composition has evolved, with several skaters aging up from C Group and gaining experience in regional competitions. These intermediate skaters are now providing leadership to younger athletes, and in some cases, assisting with setup and volunteer duties at meets. We anticipate further growth in this group next year as C Group numbers continue to strengthen.

A Group

Our **A Group** remained small this season, with **6–7 competitive skaters**, similar to the previous year's 6. This lower number reflects a natural cycle as older skaters move on from the sport or transition to post-secondary studies, and as the next Canada Games cycle resets. Despite the small roster, the group showed strong commitment — often sharing ice with B Group for joint practices — and provided invaluable mentorship to younger skaters. The goal in the coming years is to gradually rebuild this group as the larger B and C cohorts progress.

Key Initiatives

In alignment with our 'feed the funnel' objective, several new initiatives were implemented to bridge LTS into the C Group and strengthen community engagement:

- Fredericton Speed Skating T-shirts for LTS skaters to build identity and pride.
- Mini-meet invitations for advanced LTS participants to experience racing and meet our older skaters.
- Try-a-Practice sessions in March where LTS skaters joined the C Group to test the next level of programming.
- New 'First & Fast Strides' curriculum adopted in partnership with Speed Skating Canada (SSC).
- Partnership with Nagano Skate and Fredericton Recreation & Culture's Garrison Night Market booth for local outreach.
- Online skate rental system via IceReg, modernizing our operations, including removing rental deposits.
- Expanded social media presence and community events, including the popular roller disco and themed fun nights.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

This season also came with its fair share of growing pains:

- LTS session cancellations (mostly due to Friday scheduling conflicts) created inconsistency and parent frustration.
- Low A Group numbers occasionally led to light attendance and challenges with setup (e.g., board pads).
- Board pad setup and safety for the C Group required extra coordination.

- Volunteer fatigue was a recurring theme, as our club relied heavily on a few individuals.
- Ice survey vendor turnover forced us to find a replacement company at the last minute.
- Need for stronger organizational documentation — e.g., expense, refund, and policy frameworks — was identified as a key risk for next season.

Despite these obstacles, the season was marked by adaptability and resilience, with board members stepping into unfamiliar roles and ensuring programs stayed on track.

Competition Summary

The **38th Annual Harold Joyce Speed Skating Competition** was held in November 2024 at the Grant Harvey Centre. The event welcomed **106 skaters** from clubs across the Atlantic provinces, making it one of the largest gatherings in the region this season.

The meet ran smoothly thanks to the dedication of our organizing committee and volunteers. The participation of athletes from outside New Brunswick, along with strong representation from our own B and C groups, made this an exciting and competitive event.

We received very positive feedback from coaches, parents, and skaters about both the organization and atmosphere of the meet. This year, we also saw increased participation from newer families, many of whom took on volunteer roles for the first time — an encouraging sign for our club's future capacity to host major competitions.

The Harold Joyce continues to be a highlight of our season, and we look forward to building on this success as we prepare for the 39th annual edition next year.

Financial Summary

The club remains in a stable financial position, though this season saw higher operational costs due to equipment refreshes, and administrative improvements.

We reported several positive developments:

- Implementation of a new online payment processor.
- Modernized bank account management for easier transactions (E-transfers).
- Ongoing preparation for increased ice rental fees next season and pursuit of new grants and sponsorships.

Overall, our financial position remains healthy, positioning us well to continue investing in youth development and community outreach.

Coaching Volunteers

FASSCI could not operate without the continued dedication of its volunteer coaches. Their commitment ensures our skaters have a positive and rewarding experience on the ice every week. We extend our sincere thanks to all coaches for their time, energy, and leadership.

A / B / C Group Coaches

- Isaac Gallagher (Coach Coordinator)
- Steve Harris
- Conor Murray
- Mia Stewart
- Mya Payne
- Christine Adams

Learn to Skate (LTS) Coaches

- Erin MacQuarrie (LTS Coordinator)
- Riley Adams
- Ben Clement
- Keshia Matthews
- John Ward
- Jack Ward
- A / B Group Skaters (assistant coaches and mentors)

We are also grateful to Derrick MacLeod for his many years of leadership as Head Coach and for helping with the transition into our current coaching structure.

Club's Board and Volunteers

The 2024–25 season was marked by transition and teamwork, with several board members stepping up to fill new roles. We would like to thank all of our board members and the many volunteers who contribute throughout the year — whether at meets, practices, or social events — for their dedication and support.

Board Members

- President - Adam Leclerc
- Vice President/Secretary - Wendy Monk
- Treasurer - Rebecca Blight
- Registrar - Adam Leclerc/Gobinda Saha
- Equipment - Jean-Benoit Clement
- Social Media/Event Coordinator - Susan Tao/Leon Sanchez
- Meet Coordinator - Tim Cushing
- Club Development Officer and Special Events Coordinator – Benoit Locas

Special thanks also go to the numerous parents, caregivers, and community partners who continue to step forward to volunteer at events and ensure the club runs smoothly.

Looking Ahead to 2025–26

As highlighted at our AGM, our focus for the upcoming season includes:

- Continuing the full LTS program (potentially on a new weekday)
- Further strengthening the LTS → C Group pathway.
- Expanding sponsorship and advertising initiatives to secure sustainable funding.
- Updating our website to improve communication and visibility.
- Recruiting and supporting new board and coaching volunteers to share the workload.

This season has shown that FASSCI is resilient, adaptable, and driven by a strong community spirit. With clear direction and the continued involvement of our amazing volunteers and families, we're confident the club will continue to grow in both numbers and quality of experience.

Acknowledgements

A huge thank you to:

- All board members and volunteers who stepped up in a year of change.
- Coaches across A, B, C, and LTS groups for keeping programs running strong.
- Parents and caregivers for their ongoing support and flexibility.
- Grant Harvey Centre staff, Skyline Surveys, and Raymond Martin for their continued collaboration.
- And finally, every skater — from LTS to A Group — for making the 2024–25 season such a success.

Sincerely,

Adam Leclerc

President, Fredericton Amateur Speed Skating Club