



Presidents Report - 2024/25 year

This season, our club had sixty-eight skaters, which was smaller than expected overall. We knew we would have no Group 1 skaters this season. Uptake in our Learn to Skate registration started off especially slowly; however, by the end of October, our registration numbers were closer to what we had forecasted.

Looking ahead, the board is actively considering what long-term sustainability looks like for a smaller club—not only adjusting to operating with fewer skaters, but also with fewer board members and parents. Our communications and registration coordinators no longer have skaters in our club. Angie and Ryan were still vital in their contributions to help run things, but it was an adjustment not having them around on a regular basis.

We introduced a Coach Liaison position to the board, which allowed for consistent and frequent communication between coaches and board members. This was helpful for coaches, who felt more supported throughout the season, and also improved communication with parents. Speed Skate Canada's First Fast Strides program was launched, and we began incorporating it into our Learn to Skate program.

SJASSC took advantage of a grant from SSC to host a special training event at the field house for our Groups 2 and 3 skaters. It was a fun morning, featuring a mini-info session for skaters and parents, followed by a dryland session and an opportunity for Groups 2 and 3 to get to know each other better.

We held two one-day competitions at our home arena this season. The first was a Fundamental Meet in December 2024, with twenty-five younger skaters from four clubs in NB. In January 2025, we held the Charles Gorman Memorial Meet at our home arena. Although we were unable to accommodate a 111m track, the event was deemed successful, especially as the competitors in the province are younger now. We felt it was our fiduciary responsibility to decide not to hold the competition at TD Station. The City of Saint John also introduced a special rate for competitions, which we qualified for. We had sixty-six participants: fifty-five from NB and eleven from NS, representing eight clubs.

With our aging equipment, the board is planning to start replacing some of our oldest items next season, prioritizing cut suits and creating a rating system for boots and blades to identify what is in rough shape and where there are gaps in sizes. Board pads are also under consideration, and we are discussing what kind of funding we may be eligible for.



Lastly, Greg and I completed the “Fire Warden” training offered by the city, which allows us to access the arena when no city staff are onsite. We can now request a key from the Saint John Leisure Department when we need to enter the Gorman Arena, so we no longer have to wait for someone to let us in.

Respectfully Submitted – October 27, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie Sgrosso".

Natalie Sgrosso
SJASSC President