

ST. CROIX SPEED SKATING CLUB

Annual Report

2025-2026 Season



Season Overview

The 2025-2026 season was a modest but positive year for the St. Croix Speed Skating Club. The club continued to provide local opportunities for both developing and returning skaters while relying on the commitment of volunteers and former club athletes to support programming.

Speed Skating Program

The club had six speed skaters registered during the season. Danika Sorel, a former St. Croix Speed Skating Club athlete, served as coach. Her return to the club in a coaching role provided valuable continuity and helped connect the current group of skaters with the club's history and experience.

Learn to Skate Program

The Learn to Skate program welcomed eight participants, which was a large decrease from previous years. The club did not have a dedicated coach for this program; however, high school volunteers, many of whom were former club athletes, stepped in to run the sessions. Their involvement allowed the program to continue and provided younger skaters with instruction and encouragement from experienced members of the local skating community.

Competition

Two of the club's speed skaters attended the Hampton meet during the season. This was the first competition experience for both skaters and the only meet they attended during the 2025-2026 season. Their participation gave them an opportunity to experience racing in a meet environment and represented the club outside the local program.

Board and Governance

The St. Croix Speed Skating Club was supported by a four-member Board during the 2025-2026 season. The Board met three times over the course of the year to discuss club activities, the ongoing operation of the club, and its future direction. These meetings provided an opportunity to review current needs, consider programming and organizational matters, and discuss ways to support the club's long-term sustainability.

Board Members:

President: Amanda Beaubien

Treasurer: Victoria McGuire

Secretary: Josh Horsman

Member-at-large: Marc Sorenson

Financial Position

The club's finances remained stable during the season. St. Croix Speed Skating currently has a modest reserve, which provides some short-term financial stability. Careful management of these funds will remain important as the club considers future programming, recruitment, equipment, and coaching needs.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Volunteer fatigue was a recurring challenge during the 2025-2026 season. The club relied heavily on a small number of individuals to support programming and operations. As skaters completed their time with the club, their parents often moved on as well, resulting in a loss of experienced volunteers and placing additional demands on those who remained. This highlighted the need to recruit and retain a broader volunteer base and to create more continuity as families transition out of the club.

Ice availability also presented challenges. With a relatively small number of participants, the Learn to Skate and speed skating programs shared the ice surface. While this made efficient use of the available ice time, it was not ideal for the speed skaters, who did not have regular access to the full ice surface for practice. Going forward, the club will need to consider ways to improve ice use and, where participation and resources permit, provide speed skaters with more opportunities to train on the full surface.

Looking Ahead

At the end of the season, the club held discussions about its future and the steps needed to strengthen participation and long-term sustainability. Priorities identified included applying for grants and other available funding opportunities, increasing promotion and recruitment efforts, and attracting more participants to both the Speed Skating and Learn to Skate programs. The club is also looking into applying for not-for-profit status for the 2026 season, which may help support future funding opportunities and the club's long-term organizational development. Building a larger participant base and strengthening coaching support will be important areas of focus for the coming season.

Acknowledgements

The St. Croix Speed Skating Club would like to thank Danika for coaching the speed skating program, as well as the high school volunteers and former club athletes who supported the Learn to Skate program. Their time and commitment made it possible for the club to continue offering skating opportunities in the community during the 2025-2026 season.

Thank you,

Amanda Beaubien

President, St. Croix Blades Speed Skating Club