

2024-2025 President's Report – Huntsville Skating Club

The 2024-2025 skating season of the Huntsville Skating Club offered a great variety of skating programs for a variety of levels of skaters. The Board of Directors and Coaching Staff worked diligently to offer programs that included quality programming, dedicated coaching and on-ice resources that enhanced the overall experience for our skaters.

The introduction of the Pre-Canskate program as a separate session continues to be a positive addition to our skating programs. Registration in this program exceeded all our expectations. Another area of growth for our club was the Hockey Skating Skills programs.

Many thanks to our Coaching Staff of Chrissy Mantle-Marnoch, Linda Vandertas, Tim White, Lia MacDonald, Maddie Corbiere and our newest staff members, Azriel Fleming and Savannah Hrbak.

Actions as a Board of Directors

The 2024-2025 season was filled with many decisions as to the daily operations of our club. With the great success of our CANSkate program and our recognition as a CANSkate Excellence Exceeded club by Skate Canada, the Board of Directors turned to improvements to our STARSkate program. The first step was establishing STARSkate program options that included a minimum 2 session registration. The next step was encouraging all Board members and STARSkate coaching staff to participate in a Skate Ontario STAR 1-5 Excellence webinar to hear firsthand how to move to a more team-oriented approach to coaching these skaters.

The club under the direction of our Assessment Chair, Chrissy Mantle-Marnoch, organized 2 Assessment Days for our skaters working on STAR 5 to Gold tests. We would like to recognize the accomplishments of our STARSkaters, whether it was successfully completing their first Skate Canada test or reaching the ultimate Gold Test.

In addition to the daily operation of our club, the Board of Directors has a responsibility to develop and periodically review numerous policies that direct the governance of our club. This season the Board of Directors focused on the club's By-laws and compliance with ONCA (Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporation Act). We initiated the first Review of Engagement of our club's financial records as a next step to meeting ONCA compliance. This was a very time consuming action that was lead by our club treasurer, Jillian Schickler.

Club Highlights

We successfully hosted the following events:

- Skate Ontario STAR 1-4 2025 event, better known as "Skokie Skate"
- Ice Show 2025: Wonderland

- Presentation of Club Awards at our Awards Night

Many thanks to all those volunteers who had a part in the events hosted this season. We could not manage these additional activities, along with the daily operations of the club, without the valued commitment of our skating families and community volunteers.

Each season we take time to recognize all the accomplishments of our skaters. CANSkate participants are recognized through the Skate Canada ribbons and badges they earn as they work through the Stages of CANSkate. For our STARSkaters, their efforts are celebrated through Skate Canada's Test Stream.

To our Club Award winners, a special congratulations for receiving your award or recognition:

- Canskater of the Year: Ivy Heming, Jaxon Gravelle
- Spirit of Skating Award: Kiera-Anne Brown
Brianne Nickason
Eli Sabbagh
Lily Crawford
Brielle Dorling
Wyatt Johnson
Caleigh Woods
Lauren Culp
Hannah Duffield
Reyna Patel
Clara Hall
- Graduating CANSkaters: Isabelle Dionne-Pastuszak
Brianne Nickason
Reyna Patel
Lily Crawford
Ivy Heming
Kaia Hanemann
- Program Assistant of the Year: Tara Keith
- Bronze STARSkater of the Year: Olivia Jordan
- Silver STARSkater of the Year: Leia Evans
- Gold STARSkater of the Year: Mina-Fee Trahan
- April Keyes Spirit Award: Muriel Blaker
- Recognition of Excellence: Islette Greib

It was a definite highlight of our season to see the continued growth of our CANSkate program. The program continued with sessions on Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays. Registration numbers were very healthy with over 265 participants in our programs. Our programs would not be the success they are without the commitment of our Program Assistants, who support our young skaters in their journey towards a lifelong love of skating. Our club grew as a whole this season, with over 400 registered members.

Huntsville Skating Club Moving Forward

As you read this report, the Club is already planning for the 2025-2026 skating season. Our areas of focus will be:

- Continuing to develop and enhance our Canskate program
- Continuing to rebuild our STARSkate program, by initiating Skate Ontario's STAR 1-5 Excellence program
- New proposals for Ice Allocations for the 2025-2026 season
- OFF ICE Training and its value as a key part of a skater's development through addition of instructional opportunities
- Offering an opportunity for our club skaters and those in the community to participate in a skating seminar with a guest instructor.

Finally, I would like to recognize the dedicated group of individuals who give tirelessly of their time and energy to make the Huntsville Skating Club the success it is:

- Treasurer: Jillian Schickler
- Secretary: Kerri Moyer
- Directors: Melisa Pash Holly MacLeod
 Chrissy Mantle-Marnoch

As an organization run by volunteers, having such a small Board of Directors was challenging, as we attempted to provide the same quality of programming and fundraising opportunities to keep costs low for our families and many of the traditional activities that our skaters look forward to. In an effort to encourage more parents to volunteer and assist with the operation of our club, we will be establishing committees with short term commitments from its members.

There is an old adage "That many hands make light work" and nowhere is this truer than running an organization that enhances the lives of our community members. As you read this summary of our past season, I ask you to consider volunteering some time to our club to ensure that all the great things that we have accomplished this season and in the past, will continue.

Yours in skating,

Muriel Blaker
President, Huntsville Skating Club