

## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW -- MARCH 2008

ANOTHER YEAR FULL OF ACTIVITY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

DID YOU KNOW THAT APPROXIMATELY 300 SKATERS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS ICE SHOW? THIS NUMBER CONSISTS OF SKATERS FROM THE BEGINNING LEVEL TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL, INCLUDING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS.

### OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

OVER THE PAST YEAR OUR SKATERS COMPETED IN 233 EVENTS AT COMPETITIONS WITHIN ONTARIO, SASKATCHEWAN AND BRITISH COLUMBIA. THE NUMBER OF MEDALS THAT OUR COMPETITORS EARNED OVER THE LAST YEAR TOTALS MORE THAN 95. THIS IS FROM SKATERS STARTING OUT AT THEIR VERY FIRST COMPETITION TO THOSE WHO WERE COMPETING NATIONALLY.

COMPETITIONS START IN THE SUMMER TIME AND THREE OF OUR SKATERS WERE NAMED AS PART OF THE WESTERN ONTARIO SECTION TEAM TRAVELING TO SASKATCHEWAN TO COMPETE IN SEPTEMBER.

THE QUALIFYING COMPETITIVE ROUNDS STARTED OUT WITH THE WESTERN ONTARIO SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NOVEMBER. THE SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IS THE FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND FOR EARNING SPOTS TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

WE WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE 36 MEN, WOMEN AND PAIRS COMPETE AT THE SECTIONAL QUALIFYING ROUND.

FROM THIS POINT, 8 COMPETITORS MOVED FURTHER ALONG THE PATH TO THE WESTERN CHALLENGE COMPETITION, IN MISSISSAUGA, COMPETING AGAINST COMPETITORS FROM B.C. TO ONTARIO.

4 OF OUR ATHLETES WENT ON TO COMPETE AT THE SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

WE HAD 5 SKATERS COMPETE AT THE JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN OTTAWA, ONT. AND GUESS WHAT??? WE MEDALLED AGAIN AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. NINE YEARS IN A ROW, SKATERS THAT TRAIN IN OUR CLUB ACHIEVED A NATIONAL MEDAL!!! THIS TIME IT WAS TWO GOLD MEDALS – PRE-NOVICE PAIR CHAMPIONS AND NOVICE PAIR CHAMPIONS.

BASED ON THEIR GREAT PERFORMANCES AT SECTIONALS, 7 SKATERS WERE NAMED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ONTARIO WINTER GAMES IN BARRIE, ONTARIO. WHAT AN EXPERIENCE THIS WOULD BE!! WE WERE VERY FORTUNATE TO BE WELL REPRESENTED AND THREE MORE MEDALS CAME HOME.

THE STARSKATE COMPETITORS BEGAN THEIR QUALIFYING ROUND AT THE BOSTON PIZZA WESTERN ONTARIO SECTION STARSKATE CHAMPIONSHIPS. FROM THIS POINT TWO OF OUR SKATERS ADVANCED TO THE TRILLIUM STARSKATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – A PROVINCE-WIDE COMPETITION. BECAUSE OF THE CONFLICT IN DATES WITH THE ONTARIO WINTER GAMES COMPETITION – ONLY ONE OF THE TWO SKATERS WAS ABLE TO COMPETE AT THE TRILLIUM STARSKATE CHAMPIONSHIPS. AN EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE EARNED ANOTHER BRONZE MEDAL.

NOT ONLY IS THE CLUB VERY ACTIVE IN THE COMPETITIVE CIRCUIT, BUT ALSO OUR SKATERS WORK HARD AND ACHIEVE MANY SKATE CANADA TESTS. 267 TESTS WERE PASSED IN OUR CLUB THIS YEAR AT THE VARIOUS TEST DAYS AND 5 GOLD MEDALS WERE PASSED.

OUR RECREATIONAL PROGRAM ACHIEVED NEW HEIGHTS THIS YEAR AS WELL. THE ENROLMENT IN OUR RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS CONTINUES TO GROW.

THE SKATERS' LOVE OF THE SPORT DOESN'T ALWAYS END WHEN THEY HEAD OFF TO UNIVERSITY TO PURSUE THEIR EDUCATION. SOME WILL CONTINUE TO SKATE ON THE VARSITY TEAMS AND CONTINUE TO TRAIN HERE TO KEEP THEIR SKILLS PERFECTED. OTHER SKATERS GO ON TO ENJOY A PROFESSIONAL SKATING CAREER PERFORMING IN PROFESSIONAL SHOWS AROUND THE WORLD. THE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE THEY RECEIVE FROM PARTICIPATING AND PERFORMING IN THIS ICE SHOW HELP PREPARE THEM FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ICE SHOWS.

THIS CLUB HAS BEEN STRONG FOR MANY, MANY YEARS AND SEVERAL FORMER SKATERS AND COACHES ARE CAMBRIDGE HALL OF FAMERS. MANY OTHERS HAVE BEEN INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAMES ACROSS CANADA.

OUR SKATERS ARE OFTEN ASKED TO SKATE IN BENEFIT SHOWS, ICE SHOWS AND CARNIVALS IN THE AREA.

IN OUR UPCOMING FUTURE, WE HAVE PLANNED A GREAT SPRING SEMINAR FOR ALL OUR ATHLETES, BRINGING IN FORMER U.S. NATIONAL MENS CHAMPION SCOTT DAVIS, DEMONSTRATOR VAUGHN CHIPEUR, 4<sup>TH</sup> AT THE 2008 CANADIAN MENS CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND WORLD RENOWNED ANNE SCHELTER TO START OUR YEAR OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT.

WE WILL BRING IN THIS YEAR, AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST, SPECIALISTS IN MANY AREAS, INCLUDING FLEXIBILITY, YOGA AND EXPERTS IN THE NEW JUDGING SYSTEM.

OFFERING SINGLES, FREE SKATE PAIRS, DANCE PAIRS, RECREATIONAL-LEARN TO SKATE PROGRAMS FROM AGES 3 AND UP, HOCKEY SKILLS, AND ADULT PROGRAMS, THE CLUB IS WELL-ROUNDED AND OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

THIS CLUB HAS BEEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT FOR MANY, MANY YEARS AND IT IS QUITE APPARENT THAT THE FUTURE IS VERY BRIGHT!

THIS CLUB'S MAIN FOCUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN TEAM SPIRIT BOTH ON AND OFF THE ICE, DEMONSTRATED BY THE TEAM COACHING ENVIRONMENT AND THE MANY TEAM BUILDING EVENTS THAT TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR -- INCLUDING TEAM PARTIES, SKATE-A-THONS, LARRY PEPPLER TEAM COMPETITION, TRIPS TO WONDERLAND, THE ANNUAL ICE SHOW AND MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES.

OUR BOARD MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS IN THIS CLUB ARE SECOND TO NONE. THAT IS OBVIOUS BY THE HUGE TASKS THAT ARE PUT IN FRONT OF THEM, AND THE OUTSTANDING RESULTS THAT ARE ALWAYS ACHIEVED. MANY OF THE VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR CLUB NO LONGER HAVE SKATERS SKATING IN THE CLUB, BUT THEY STILL COME OUT TO HELP WITH THE MANY FUNCTIONS THAT CLUB OFFERS INCLUDING THE EXTRAORDINARY TASK OF PUTTING THIS ICE SHOW TOGETHER.

OUR COACHING STAFF IS INCREDIBLE, AND WITHOUT THEM, WE MIGHT FALL SHORT OF THIS OUTSTANDING CLUB RECORD. THIS YEAR WE ARE LOSING, FROM OUR COACHING TEAM, ONE OF THE BEST COACHES IN CANADA. MRS. LINDA PURDY WILL BE RETIRING AND MOVING ON TO ENJOY HER RETIREMENT WITH HER FAMILY. SHE WILL BE DEEPLY MISSED BY ALL.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE MANY GREAT VOLUNTEERS, BOARD MEMBER AND COACHES, UNDOUBTEDLY WE HAVE THE GREATEST GROUP OF SKATERS THERE COULD EVER BE. THROUGH ENTHUSIASM AND HARD WORK THESE ATHLETES CONTINUE TO AMAZE!!!!

**HATS OFF TO THE SKATERS!!!!**