

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW – MARCH 2011

WOW! WHAT A WHIRLWIND YEAR! THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR FULL OF MANY GREAT EXPERIENCES AND SUCCESSES AND ALREADY WE'RE PREPARING FOR THE 51ST ICE SHOW!

WE HAVE MORE THAN 250 SKATERS PARTICIPTING IN THIS ICE SHOW AND THIS NUMBER CONSISTS OF SKATERS FROM THE BEGINNING LEVEL TO THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

IN MAY 2010 THE PRESTON CLUB WAS UP FRONT AND CENTRE AT THE WESTRN ONTARIO SECTION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WHERE PRESTON MEMBERS WERE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE STARKATE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR, COMPETITIVE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AND VOLUNTEER COACH OF THE YEAR.

OVER THE PAST YEAR OUR SKATERS COMPETED IN OVER 200 EVENTS AT COMPETITIONS WITHIN ONTARIO, BRITISH COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONALLY. THE NUMBER OF MEDALS THAT OUR COMPETITORS EARNED OVER THE LAST YEAR TOTALS MORE THAN 90. THIS IS FROM SKATERS STARTING OUT AT THEIR VERY FIRST COMPETITION TO THOSE WHO WERE COMPETING NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

COMPETITIONS START IN THE SUMMER TIME AND OUR PAIRS TEAMS STARTED THE COMPETITIVE SEASON OFF BY COMPETING AT A PAIRS COMPETITION IN INDIANAPOLIS.

TWO PAIRS TEAMS WERE NAMED TO THE JUNIOR GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT AND COMPETED IN COMPETITIONS IN ENGLAND, AUSTRIA, GERMANY AND POLAND. WITH THE SUCCESSES THAT THEY EARNED ONE OF TEAMS QUALIFIED FOR THE JUNIOR GRAND PRIX FINALS AND HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF TRAVELLING TO CHINA WHERE THEY PLACED 4TH IN A FIELD OF THE BEST JUNIOR COMPETITORS IN THE WORLD!

THE QUALIFYING COMPETITIVE ROUNDS STARTED OUT WITH THE WESTERN ONTARIO SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NOVEMBER. THE SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WERE HELD AT THE HESPELER MEMORIAL ARENA AND WAS HOSTED BY THE GRAND RIVER REGION WITH MANY VOLUNTEERS COMING OUT FROM THE PRESTON SKATING CLUB TO ASSIST IN SEEING THIS COMPETITION A GREAT SUCCESS! WE ALSO OFFERED DAY TRIPS TO OUR UP AND COMING COMPETITIVE SKATERS TO COME OUT TO WATCH AND LEARN FROM THIS VERY STRONG FIELD OF COMPETITORS. THIS IS THE FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND FOR EARNING SPOTS TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

FROM THIS POINT, SEVERAL OF OUR SKATERS MOVED FURTHER ALONG THE PATH TO THE WESTERN CHALLENGE COMPETITION IN MISSISSAUGA, COMPETING AGAINST COMPETITORS FROM ACROSS CANADA.

WE HAD 10 SKATERS COMPETE AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA THIS PAST JANUARY AND ALL WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL. ONE PAIR TEAM IN PARTICULAR ACHIEVED NEW SUCCESSES FOR THEMSELVES RECEIVING THE BRONZE MEDAL IN THE NOVICE PAIR COMPETITION.

BASED ON THE RESULTS FROM SECTIONALS ONE OF OUR SKATERS WAS ALSO NAMED TO PARTICIPATE AT THE TRILLIUM CUP COMPETITION (WHICH IS AN ONTARIO-WIDE COMPETITION).

NOT ONLY IS THE CLUB VERY ACTIVE IN THE COMPETITIVE CIRCUIT, BUT ALSO OUR SKATERS WORK HARD AND ACHIEVE MANY SKATE CANADA TESTS. OVER 200 TESTS WERE PASSED AND SEVERAL GOLD MEDALS WERE ACHIEVED.

OUR RECREATIONAL PROGRAM ACHIEVED NEW HEIGHTS THIS YEAR AS WELL. THE ENROLMENT AND THE INTEREST IN LEARNING TO SKATE STILL GROWS.

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.

MANY OF OUR SKATERS HAVE GONE ON TO PURSUE CAREERS IN SKATING – FROM COACHING AT CLUBS ALL AROUND THE WORLD -- BECOMING TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS & CONTROLLERS FOR SKATE CANADA AND THE INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION – TAKING POSITIONS WITH SKATE CANADA AND THE INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION – BECOMING TECHNICAL DIRECTORS OF SKATING CLUBS – THE LIST GOES ON AND ON.

OTHER SKATERS GO ON TO ENJOY A PROFESSIONAL SKATING CAREER PERFORMING IN PROFESSIONAL SHOWS AROUND THE WORLD. THE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE THEY RECEIVED FROM PARTICIPATING AND PERFORMING IN THIS ICE SHOW HELPED 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 THE HALL OF FAMES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

IN THE UPCOMING YEAR WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO HAVE LINDA PURDY, A FORMER COACH WITH OUR CLUB COMING BACK TO CONDUCT OUR ANNUAL SEMINAR. MANY OF YOU WILL REMEMBER AND KNOW MRS. PURDY. MRS. PURDY WAS A FORMER WORLD TEAM MEMBER AND WENT ON AFTER HER AMATEUR SKATING DAYS TO COACH MANY NATIONAL MEDALLISTS AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITORS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING HER BACK IN OUR RINK, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.

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'S MAIN FOCUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON TEAM SPIRIT BOTH ON AND OFF THE ICE, WHICH IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE TEAM COACHING ENVIRONMENT AND THE MANY TEAM BUILDING EVENTS THAT TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR – INCLUDING TEAM PARTIES AND BANQUETS, SKATE-A-THONS, LARRY PEPPLER TEAM COMPETITION AND FUND RAISER, 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.

OUR COACHING STAFF IS INCREDIBLE, AND WITHOUT THEM, WE MIGHT FALL SHORT OF THIS OUTSTANDING CLUB RECORD.

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

YOU ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AROUND AT THE PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THIS ICE SHOW TO SEE WHAT AN AMAZING CLUB AND SPORT THIS IS!

THE GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCES, LIFE LESSONS AND UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES AND FRIENDSHIPS THAT WILL BOND PEOPLE TOGETHER FOREVER IS VERY EVIDENT IN THIS CLUB AND IN THIS ICE SHOW.

YOU WILL ALSO SEE SOME FAMILIAR FACES AROUND INVOLVED WITH THE ICE SHOW WHO ARE NOT FORMER SKATERS. LONG SINCE THEIR CHILDREN RETIRED AND MOVED ON WITH THEIR LIVES, THE FAMILIES WILL RETURN TO HELP OUT WITH THIS AMAZING SHOW. IT IS AS MUCH AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE FOR THE VOLUNTEERS AS IT IS FOR THE SKATERS/PERFORMERS IN THE SHOW.

HATS OFF TO THE SKATERS!!!!!!