



The Speedy Kids Oval Program Society

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Report to Speed Skate Nova Scotia

27 June 2016

The Speedy Kids Oval Program Society had another successful season during 2015-16, the highlight of which was the First Annual Oval Meltdown, the first-ever competition hosted by the club.

Governance

The Society's end-of-year party and AGM were held on May 24th at the George Dixon Centre. The board of directors for 2016-17 is Lisa Gannett (President), Una Goggin (Vice-President), Christine Buckley (Secretary-Treasurer), Andrew Leitao (Member-at-Large), David Magloir (Member-at-Large), Hilary Rankin (Member-at-Large), and Maartje Stroink (Member-at-Large).

Membership

The Society's membership numbers during 2015-16 remained stable in comparison with 2014-15. We had 168 members, which includes participants in the inline club program, the ice after-school and club programs, staff and volunteers from our partner organizations, parents, and volunteers from the community. There were 138 Speedy Kids members registered with SSNS and SSC: 17 parents and volunteers, 46 club program skaters, 72 after-school program skaters, and 3 Oval Meltdown participants. Skaters in our after-school and club programs ranged in age from 4 to 14. When combined with additional programming in partnership with Halifax Recreation (see below), during the past season, we put 500-600 children and youth on skates, whether inline or ice.

Programs

In spring, we partnered with Halifax Recreation to offer a 6-week "Introduction to Inline Skating" course at Needham Centre, we supported weekly inline skating sessions for after-school groups at George Dixon Centre, and we held club group practices at the oval and Dixon Centre. In summer, we supported weekly inline skating sessions for summer camp groups at George Dixon and Needham Centres, and we held club group practices at the oval and Dixon Centre. In fall, we partnered with Halifax Recreation to offer a 6-week "Inline to Ice Speed Skating" course at Needham Centre and Devonshire Arena, we supported weekly inline skating sessions for after-school groups at George Dixon Centre, and we held club group practices at the oval and Dixon Centre. During winter, we offered after-school and club programs at the oval: after-school participants were from the Community YMCA, George Dixon Centre, St. George's YouthNet, and North Preston Community Centre. Skaters from both programs participated in the Atlantic Long Track Championships, the First Annual Oval Meltdown, the Sunday Morning Racing Series, and the Valley Mini-Meet. We were once again able to offer an NCCP FUNDamentals Coach clinic in December.

Events

The Society's goal this past season was to build our capacity as an organization to host events. We obtained a grant from District 7 capital funds for equipment for competitions. We got our feet wet with an inline event at the end of the summer for Halifax Recreation youth leaders. We were able to recruit a dozen or so volunteers to attend a Level 1 officials' clinic, and we took our turn to provide officials for one of the Sunday racing events. We now have a logo and racing skin suits, which our skaters helped to design. The highlight, of course, was The First Annual Oval Meltdown. We were able to offer something for everyone—Olympic style, mass start, long distance races, some fun and games, and pizza and prizes. Although the ice did literally melt down under our blades, it was an amazing way to wrap up the season. As one of the masters skaters commented over pizza, there are few opportunities for 4 year olds and 74 year olds to recreate together. Thanks to Todd Landon and Brent Thompson and all of our new volunteers for joining the meet organization committee. And thanks to everyone from other NS and NB clubs who raced, volunteered as officials, and lent equipment and expertise.