

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW – MARCH 2017

IT'S GALA TIME AGAIN!!! WELCOME TO OUR SHOW

GREAT SUCCESSES ARE WHAT THIS CLUB IS ALL ABOUT. SOMETIMES IT COMES IN THE FORM OF A MEDAL, TROPHY OR RIBBON. SOMETIMES IT COMES IN THE FORM OF ACHIEVING A GOAL, MAKING A NEW FRIEND, PASSING A TEST. HERE'S SOME OF THIS YEAR'S OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SUCCESSES ...

THE PRESTON FIGURE SKATING CLUB, FOR A LONG TIME, HAS BEEN KNOWN AROUND THE AREA, COUNTRY AND WORLD AS A STRONG INFLUENCE IN FIGURE SKATING. THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION HAVING COMPETITORS COMPETE AT THE CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, FINLAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND JAPAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. SKATERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD LOOK TO PRESTON AS A GREAT PLACE TO TRAIN, LEARN AND ACHIEVE SKATING SUCCESS. WE ARE PROUD TO ADD TO THIS CLUB'S SUCCESSES:

GOLD MEDALLISTS IN THE SENIOR PAIRS EVENT AT THE FINLAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

BRONZE MEDALLISTS IN THE SENIOR PAIRS EVENT AT THE JAPAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

ALSO OUR JUNIOR PAIR TEAM WAS NAMED TO THEIR VERY FIRST JUNIOR GRAND PRIX COMPETITION AND TRAVELLED TO RUSSIA REPRESENTING BOTH CLUB AND COUNTRY PROUDLY. WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE THIS MUST HAVE BEEN FOR SUCH A YOUNG PAIR TEAM.

EVERY YOUNG SKATER'S DREAM IS TO COMPETE AT THE WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS AND 2 OF OUR SKATERS' DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE! **EMILIA SIMONEN AND MATT PENASSE HAVE QUALIFIED FOR THE WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE SENIOR PAIR EVENT.** THEY WILL BE ARRIVING IN HELSINKI, FINLAND AS YOU READ THIS IN PREPARATION FOR THIS WORLD EVENT STARTING MARCH 29 TO APRIL 2, 2017.

GOOD LUCK EMILIA AND MATT!! WE'LL BE WATCHING AND CHEERING YOU ON!

ALONG WITH THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OUR SKATERS ACHIEVED MANY OTHER SUCCESSES...

OVER THE PAST YEAR SKATERS COMPETED IN OVER 200 EVENTS AT COMPETITIONS IN ONTARIO, QUEBEC, MICHIGAN, MANILA / PHILIPPINES, TOKYO / JAPAN, OSAKA / JAPAN, SARANSK / RUSSIA, FINLAND, OBERSTORF / GERMANY AND THE HAGUE / NETHERLANDS. COUNTLESS MEDALS WERE EARNED. THIS INCLUDES SKATERS STARTING OUT AT THEIR VERY FIRST COMPETITION TO THOSE COMPETING PROVINCIALY, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

OUR CLUB IS INVOLVED IN HELPING OUR ATHLETES PREPARE FOR THEIR COMPETITIVE SEASON. OUR LARRY PEPPLER MEMORIAL FUNDRAISER IS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS AT THE START OF THE COMPETITIVE YEAR. THIS EVENT TAKES PLACE IN JULY AND SKATERS PARTICIPATE IN A SIMULATION SECTION OF THE DAY BEING MONITORED BY SKATE CANADA JUDGES AND TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS OFFERING FEEDBACK TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR COMPETITIVE GOALS. THE SIMULATION IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THEIR JAM-PACKED DAY. SPECIAL FUN EVENTS AND THE EVER-POPULAR TEAM EVENT FOLLOW. THE SKATERS NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE US WITH THEIR UNIQUE AND CREATIVE COSTUMES AND SKITS. THIS WAS THE 36TH YEAR THIS EVENT HAS TAKEN PLACE AND THERE IS NO END IN SIGHT.

THE COMPETITIVE ATHLETES, SINGLES, PAIRS AND DANCE, HIGH COMPETITIVE SEASON STARTS IN THE SUMMER. IN THE FALL, THE GRAND RIVER COUNCIL ORGANIZED AND RAN WITH THE HELP OF THE REGIONAL SKATING CLUBS, A SIMULATION DAY TO HELP SKATERS FINE TUNE THEIR PROGRAMS FOR THE UPCOMING QUALIFYING COMPETITION AT SECTIONALS IN KOMOKA, ONTARIO, CHALLENGE IN PIERREFONDS, QUEBEC AND FINISHING WITH THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN OTTAWA.

THE STAR SKATERS HAD AN EXTREMELY BUSY SCHEDULE THIS YEAR AS WELL COMPETING IN COMPETITIONS IN WESTERN ONTARIO. THE WOS STARSKATE CHAMPIONSHIPS TOOK PLACE IN FEBRUARY IN AYLMEER, ONTARIO WHICH IS THE QUALIFYING FOR A PROVINCE-WIDE COMPETITION WHICH WAS HELD IN PORT COLBORNE, MARCH 18. WE HAD TWO GIRLS MAKE THE FINALS AND BOTH GIRLS REPRESENTED OUR CLUB PROUDLY.

THE CLUB IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP, MOTIVATE AND SUPPORT OUR UP AND COMING ATHLETES. IN DECEMBER WE HELD OUR REGIONAL CLUB SIMULATION DAY AND TEAM DINNER. IT WAS GREAT TO SEE THE WONDERFUL UP AND COMING TALENTED SKATERS DO THEIR SOLOS AND SEE THEIR HAPPY FACES AS THEY MINGLED AND HAD FUN AT THE TEAM DINNER THAT FOLLOWED.

PRESTON FSC FURTHER ADDED TO THE SKATERS' OPPORTUNITIES BY ORGANIZING A STAR 1-4 SIMULATION EVENING IN FEBRUARY TO PREPARE THE ATHLETES FOR THE "FUTURES" COMPETITION IN MARCH.

ALL OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS THE WOS DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS OUR SKATERS ARE INVITED TO AND ACTIVELY ATTEND HELP OUR SKATERS PREPARE AND ULTIMATELY REACH HIGHER GOALS.

WE HAD 2 SYNCHRO TEAMS THIS YEAR. BOTH "ICE PRISMS" TEAMS BROUGHT HOME BRONZE MEDALS FROM THEIR COMPETITION IN OAKVILLE. THE ELEMENTARY TEAM WENT ON TO THE ONTARIO REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS PLACING 13TH IN A VERY STRONG FIELD OF TEAMS.

NOT ONLY IS THE CLUB ACTIVE ON THE COMPETITIVE CIRCUIT, BUT COMPETITIVE AND STARSKATERS WORK HARD AND ACHIEVE MANY SKATE CANADA TESTS. OVER 230 TESTS WERE TRIED AND PASSED THIS YEAR AND MANY GOLD MEDALS WERE ACHIEVED IN DANCE, SKILLS, FREE SKATE AND INTERPRETIVE.

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 AND HELP OUT BY COACHING OUR YOUNGER ATHLETES.

MANY OF OUR SKATERS HAVE GONE ON TO PURSUE CAREERS IN SKATING — FROM COACHING AT CLUBS AROUND THE WORLD — BECOMING TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS, CONTROLLERS AND JUDGES, TAKING OTHER 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 SHOW HELPED PREPARE THEM FOR PROFESSIONAL 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 IN THE HALL OF FAMES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE ARE PLEASED THAT FORMER PRESTON TEAM MEMBERS CYNTHIA COULL AND MARK ROWSOM, BRONZE MEDALLISTS AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 1986 IN HELSINKI WILL INDUCTED INTO THE CAMBRIDGE HALL OF FAME THIS YEAR.

AS WELL, THIS YEAR, WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT **MRS. MARY HARTRICK WILL BE INDUCTED INTO THE SKATE CANADA WESTERN ONTARIO SECTION HALL OF FAME.** MRS. HARTRICK HAS BEEN A TEAM COACH WITH THE PRESTON FIGURE SKATING CLUB FOR MANY, MANY YEARS AND IS A WELL-RESPECTED COACH AMONGST HER COLLEAGUES. WHAT A WONDERFUL HONOR IT IS TO HAVE AND CONTINUE TO HAVE SUCH AN AMAZING COACH WORK WITH OUR ATHLETES.

CONGRATULATIONS MRS. MARY HARTRICK!!

THE 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.

OUR BOARD MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS 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!! EACH AND EVERY SKATER IS VALUED AS A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL AND IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THIS TEAM & FAMILY. THE FAMILY WE FONDLY CALL THE "PRESTON FIGURE SKATING CLUB"

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

HATS OFF TO THE SKATERS!!!

"NOW — ON WITH THE SHOW"