

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW – MARCH 2018

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.

THE PRESTON FIGURE SKATING CLUB, FOR A LONG TIME, HAS BEEN KNOWN AS A STRONG INFLUENCE IN FIGURE SKATING. THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION HAVING COMPETITORS TRAIN WITH US FROM ACROSS CANADA AND AROUND THE WORLD.

OUR CLUB IS INVOLVED IN HELPING OUR ATHLETES PREPARE FOR THEIR COMPETITIVE SEASON. THE LARRY PEPLER MEMORIAL FUNDRAISER IS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS AT THE START OF THE COMPETITIVE YEAR. THIS EVENT TAKES PLACE IN JULY WHEN 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 37TH YEAR THIS EVENT HAS TAKEN PLACE AND THERE IS NO END IN SIGHT.

THIS YEAR OFFERED A NEW QUALIFYING STRUCTURE FOR OUR COMPETITIVE SINGLES SKATERS. OUR SKATERS ATTENDED QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS DURING THE SUMMER AND FALL ON THEIR QUEST TO QUALIFY FOR THE SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN NOVEMBER IN OAKVILLE.

SOMETIMES INJURIES AND ILLNESS OCCUR AT THE MOST INOPPORTUNE TIMES ESPECIALLY IN A HIGHLY PHYSICAL SPORT. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO SEVERAL OF OUR COMPETITORS LEAVING THEM UNABLE TO PURSUE THEIR OPPORTUNITIES OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR THE SEASON.

A SIMILAR QUALIFYING STRUCTURE WAS PUT INTO PLACE THIS YEAR BY SKATE ONTARIO FOR THE STAR SKATERS AND THE PRE-JUVENILE AND JUVENILE ATHLETES. THESE ATHLETES COMPETED IN COMPETITIONS DURING THE FALL AND WINTER MONTHS IN THEIR PURSUIT TO QUALIFY FOR THE SKATE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. THROUGH GOOD TRAINING AND HARD WORK, 4 OF OUR SKATERS QUALIFIED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE AT THIS PROVINCE-WIDE COMPETITION IN KINGSTON MARCH 16TH-18TH.

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 CLUB TEAM DINNER. IT WAS GREAT TO SEE THE WONDERFUL UP AND COMING TALENTED SKATERS DO THEIR SOLOS AND SEE THE SECTIONAL/COMPETITIVE LEVEL SKATERS EMBRACE THESE YOUNG SKATERS AT THE TEAM DINNER AND FESTIVITIES THAT FOLLOWED.

WE ARE VERY PROUD TO HAVE TWO SYNCHRO TEAMS THIS YEAR. BOTH "ICE PRISMS" TEAMS HAVE BEEN BUSY TRAINING AND COMPETING AND HAVE HAD A GREAT DEAL OF FUN AND SUCCESS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

NOT ONLY IS THE CLUB ACTIVE ON THE COMPETITIVE CIRCUIT, BUT COMPETITIVE AND STARSKATERS WORK HARD AND ACHIEVE MANY SKATE CANADA TESTS. A NEW TESTING SYSTEM WAS PUT IN PLACE FOR THE STAR 1 – 5 TEST THIS YEAR AND HAS PROVEN TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN HELPING TO MOVE THE SKATERS FORWARD THROUGH THE TEST SYSTEM AND ALLOWS FOR GREATER EASE IN ORGANIZING AND SCHEDULING THESE TESTS. OVER 200 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.

IN OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR, TWO OF OUR COACHES WERE HONOURED BY THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE AS THE RECIPIENTS OF THE SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD.

CONGRATULATIONS CAROL & KEVIN WHEELER!
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
SPORTS CONTRIBUTORS OF THE YEAR

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.

THE PRESTON FSC PRIDES ITSELF ON WELCOMING COACHES AND SKATERS FROM OTHER CLUBS AND THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION. NEW BASE COACHES, GUEST COACHES AND SKATERS WERE WELCOMED INTO OUR CLUB AND THE PRESTON FSC CONTINUES TO ASSIST ANY AND ALL IN EVERY WAY WE CAN.

THE PRESTON FIGURE SKATING CLUB IS A DIVERSE CLUB OFFERING PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG AND OLD - BUDDIES ON BLADES, CANSKATE, ADVANCED CANSKATE, STARSKATE LEVEL, COMPETITIVE LEVEL, SINGLES, DANCE, PAIRS, HOCKEY SKILLS AND POWER SKATING. THIS CLUB HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

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, UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES AND FRIENDSHIPS THAT WILL BOND PEOPLE TOGETHER FOREVER ARE VERY EVIDENT IN THIS CLUB AND IN THIS GALA.

HATS OFF TO THE SKATERS!!!

"NOW — ON WITH THE SHOW"