

## **OUR YEAR IN REVIEW – MARCH 2010**

THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR FULL OF MANY GREAT EXPERIENCES AND SUCCESSES AND ALSO A YEAR FULL OF EXCITEMENT WITH THE THOUGHTS AND THE PREPARATION FOR THIS VERY SPECIAL 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ICE SHOW.

WE HAVE MORE THAN 250 SKATERS PARTICIPATING IN THIS ICE SHOW (EXCLUDING ALUMNI) AND THIS NUMBER CONSISTS OF SKATERS FROM THE BEGINNING LEVEL TO THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

OVER THE PAST YEAR OUR SKATERS COMPETED IN 215 EVENTS AT COMPETITIONS WITHIN ONTARIO, SASKATCHEWAN 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 ONE OF OUR SKATERS WAS NAMED AS PART OF THE WESTERN ONTARIO SECTION TEAM TRAVELLING TO SASKATCHEWAN TO COMPETE IN SEPTEMBER.

TWO PAIRS TEAMS WERE NAMED TO THE JUNIOR GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT AND COMPETED IN COMPETITIONS IN POLAND, BELARUS AND GERMANY. THEY HAVE MANY GREAT STORIES TO TELL OF THEIR TRAVELS AND EXPERIENCES COMPETING IN THESE COUNTRIES.

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.

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 LONDON, ONTARIO THIS PAST JANUARY AND WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL.

BASED ON THEIR GREAT PERFORMANCES AT SECTIONALS, 4 SKATERS WERE NAMED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ONTARIO WINTER GAMES IN MUSKOKA. WHAT AN EXPERIENCE THIS WOULD BE!

THE STARSKATE COMPETITORS BEGAN THEIR QUALIFYING ROUND AT THE BOSTON PIZZA WESTERN ONTARIO SECTION STARSKATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ST. MARY'S, ONTARIO. FROM THIS POINT TWO OF OUR SKATERS ADVANCED TO THE TRILLIUM STARSKATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – A PROVINCE-WIDE COMPETITION. CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OUR SKATERS ON THEIR BRONZE MEDALS!

WE ALSO BOAST HAVING THE OLDEST SKATER IN CANADA COMPETING. CAN YOU IMAGINE COMPETING WHEN YOU'RE OVER 80? WHAT AN AMAZING PERSON!!

NOT ONLY IS THE CLUB VERY ACTIVE IN THE COMPETITIVE CIRCUIT, BUT ALSO OUR SKATERS WORK HARD AND ACHIEVE MANY SKATE CANADA TESTS. OVER 225 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'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, 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! THERE ARE ALUMNI RETURNING FROM ONTARIO, BRITISH COLUMBIA, QUEBEC, MASSACHUSETTS, ARIZONA, FLORIDA MISSISSIPPI, NEW JERSEY AND MANY PLACES IN BETWEEN. OVER 100 ALUMNI ARE ATTENDING THIS YEAR'S ICE SHOW AND MANY YOU WILL SEE PERFORM FOR YOU ONCE AGAIN!

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.

THE ICE SHOWS IS A PROUD TRADITION OF THIS SKATING CLUB AND ONE WE ARE SURE WILL GO ON FOR ANOTHER 50 YEARS. SEE YOU THEN!!!!

**IN THE MEANTIME – ENJOY THE SHOW!!!!**