

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW – MARCH 2014

WELCOME TO THE PRESTON FIGURE SKATING CLUB'S 2014 FIGURE SKATING GALA!

WE HAVE ALMOST 220 SKATERS PARTICIPATING IN THIS GALA AND THIS NUMBER CONSISTS OF SKATERS FROM THE BEGINNING LEVEL TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

NOT ONLY ARE MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB RESIDENTS OF THE IMMEDIATE AREA, BUT SKATERS/PARENTS ALSO DRIVE GREAT DISTANCES WEEKLY FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN AND SKATE IN OUR CLUB. OUR COACHES AND CLUB WORK CLOSELY WITH OTHER CLUBS AND COACHES TO ENSURE ATHLETES GET THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO THEM.

OVER THE PAST YEAR OUR SKATERS COMPETED IN OVER 200 EVENTS AT COMPETITIONS WITHIN ONTARIO, SASKATCHEWAN, AND THE UNITED STATES. COUNTLESS MEDALS WERE EARNED BY OUR COMPETITORS. THIS IS FROM SKATERS STARTING OUT AT THEIR VERY FIRST COMPETITION TO THOSE WHO WERE COMPETING PROVINCIALLY AND NATIONALLY.

COMPETITIONS START IN THE SUMMER MONTHS AND OUR SKATERS STARTED THE COMPETITIVE SEASON OFF BY COMPETING AT A COMPETITION IN DETROIT.

THE QUALIFYING COMPETITIVE ROUNDS STARTED OUT WITH THE WESTERN ONTARIO SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NOVEMBER. THE SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WERE HELD IN NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO. THIS IS THE FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND FOR EARNING SPOTS TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

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

THE NATIONAL FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS TOOK PLACE IN OTTAWA. WHAT A GREAT COMPETITION IT WAS AND IN TRUE PRESTON FASHION, WE ARE VERY PROUD TO HAVE THE NEW

"NATIONAL NOVICE PAIRS SILVER MEDALLISTS OF CANADA" FROM THIS VERY CLUB!

FROM THE SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WE HAD 5 PAIR TEAMS AND 2 SINGLES SKATERS ADVANCE TO THE ONTARIO WINTER GAMES. THEY ACHIEVED HUGE SUCCESS BRINGING BACK 6 MEDALS INCLUDING THE NOVICE PAIR AND JUVENILE WOMEN GOLD MEDALLISTS OF ONTARIO.

THE STARSKATE COMPETITORS BEGAN THEIR QUALIFYING ROUND AT THE WESTERN ONTARIO SECTION STARSKATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CALEDONIA, ONTARIO IN FEBRUARY. FROM THIS POINT SKATERS ADVANCE TO THE TRILLIUM SKATE ONTARIO STARSKATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – A PROVINCE-WIDE COMPETITION – BEING HELD IN WELLINGTON, ONTARIO. THIS YEAR WE HAD 3 SKATERS QUALIFY AND ADVANCE TO THESE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

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 GREAT HEIGHTS THIS YEAR AS WELL. THE ENROLLMENT AND THE INTEREST IN LEARNING TO SKATE STILL GROWS, BOTH IN FIGURE SKATING, HOCKEY SKILLS AND POWER SKATING.

IN THE FALL, THE CLUB INTRODUCED SYNCHRONIZED SKATING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE PRESTON FIGURE SKATING CLUB. IN JANUARY THEY COMPETED IN THEIR FIRST COMPETITION AND BROUGHT HOME THE BRONZE MEDAL. WHAT A GREAT WAY TO START ON THIS NEW ADVENTURE FOR THE CLUB AND SKATERS. NEXT FALL THE CLUB WILL BE OFFERING TWO SYNCHRONIZED TEAMS, ONE FOR THE INTRODUCTORY LEVEL AND ONE FOR THE MORE ADVANCED SYNCHRONIZED SKATER.

THIS CLUB JUST DOESN'T SIT BACK AND HOPE FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS. WE ARE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT PROGRAMS AND INTRODUCE NEW PROGRAMS TO HELP BETTER SERVE THE SKATERS AND THEIR NEEDS. WE JUST COMPLETED OUR SECOND YEAR OF THE "ACCELERATED PROGRAM" – HELPING YOUNGER SKATERS PROGRESS QUICKLY THROUGH THE EARLIER STAGES IN FIGURE SKATING. WE ALSO CONTINUE WITH THE POWER PLUS PROGRAM, AN ADVANCED POWER SKATING PROGRAM FOR HOCKEY PLAYERS ALREADY PROFICIENT WITH THEIR BASIC SKATING SKILLS AND WISHING TO ADVANCE THEIR SKILLS TO A HIGHER LEVEL. BOTH PROGRAMS HAVE PROVEN TO BE VERY SUCCESSFUL AND WILL BE CONTINUED INTO THE FUTURE.

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 ALL AROUND THE WORLD – BECOMING TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS & CONTROLLERS AND 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 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.

OFFERING SINGLES, FREE SKATE PAIRS, DANCE PAIRS, RECREATIONAL-LEARN TO SKATE PROGRAMS FROM AGES 2 AND UP, HOCKEY SKILLS, POWER SKATING AND ADULT PROGRAMS, THE CLUB IS WELL-ROUNDED AND OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

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 – INCLUDING TEAM PARTIES AND BANQUETS, SKATE-A-THONS, LARRY PEPPLER TEAM COMPETITION AND FUND RAISER, THE ANNUAL 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. OUR COACHES ARE RESPECTED AROUND THE WESTERN ONTARIO SECTION AND ACROSS CANADA. OUR COACHES TRAVEL TO MANY DESTINATIONS TO CONDUCT SKATING SEMINARS FOR SKATERS AT ALL LEVELS.

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!!

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 SHOW.

HATS OFF TO THE SKATERS!!!!

*****ENJOY THE SHOW*****