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ISU Adult Competition Vancouver

Letter from Kurt Browning

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Club News



# Thin Ice

current topics >>>

## Kurt Browning

*What does it feel like to do a triple axel?*

*In his own words— the champion himself.*

*Read on pg. 9*

*Kurt Browning visits BC*

*See below*

Kurt Browning takes the ice on Vancouver Island as he runs a seminar for skaters from around the Province. The seminar took place September 17th, 2016.

*Pictured below: Kurt during the seminar with a group of skaters.*



## Inaugural ISU International Adult Competition Declared a Winner

*VANCOUVER – The University of British Columbia Thunderbird Arena Facility was home to the first ISU International Adult Figure Skating Competition which took place August 30-September 1, 2016*

*Photo - Kiss & Cry Area with Susan Morris, Rhonda Burton, Lenny Scharbach, Murray Anderson, Ron Vincent, Corinne Stewart*

VANCOUVER—“It was a great week, well run, and all my expectations have been exceeded.”

Those were the words of Rhea Schwartz, chair of the ISU working group, following the conclusion of the inaugural ISU International Adult competition held August 28-September 3 at UBC Thunderbird Sports Centre. Co-ordinated by the Skate Canada BC-Yukon Section, the event drew 265 competitors from 17 countries and was the first ISU adult skating competition to be held outside of Europe.

“The local organizing committee did a fabulous job,” said Schwartz, who resides just outside of Washington DC. “The BC Section has a well know reputation of running first rate competitions and they certainly did that here. My sincerest thanks to staff and volunteers who worked so hard to make this inaugural event a great success.”

Asked if the event will return next year, Schwartz replied “I am hopeful but it will be up to the ISU Council to make that decision. We should know sometime within the next couple of months.”

Meanwhile, on the ice, skaters from the USA dominated the five-day event, winning 31 gold, 38 silver and 22 bronze medals. Host Canada, with a team of 84 skaters, won 24 gold, 14 silver and 20 bronze. A surprising Mexico, with a team of 22 skaters, won 16 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals. Other countries to take home medals

were Italy (3), Japan (3), Spain (3), Australia (3), Brazil (1), Germany (3), Turkey (1) Great Britain (1) and Czechoslovakia (1).

Of the gold medal haul won by Canada, five were double gold, four of them captured by BC skaters.

The most impressive was the performance of Victoria’s Gary Beacom, who trains in Germany.

*“It was a great week, well run, and all my expectations have been exceeded.”*

*- Story continued on pg. 8*



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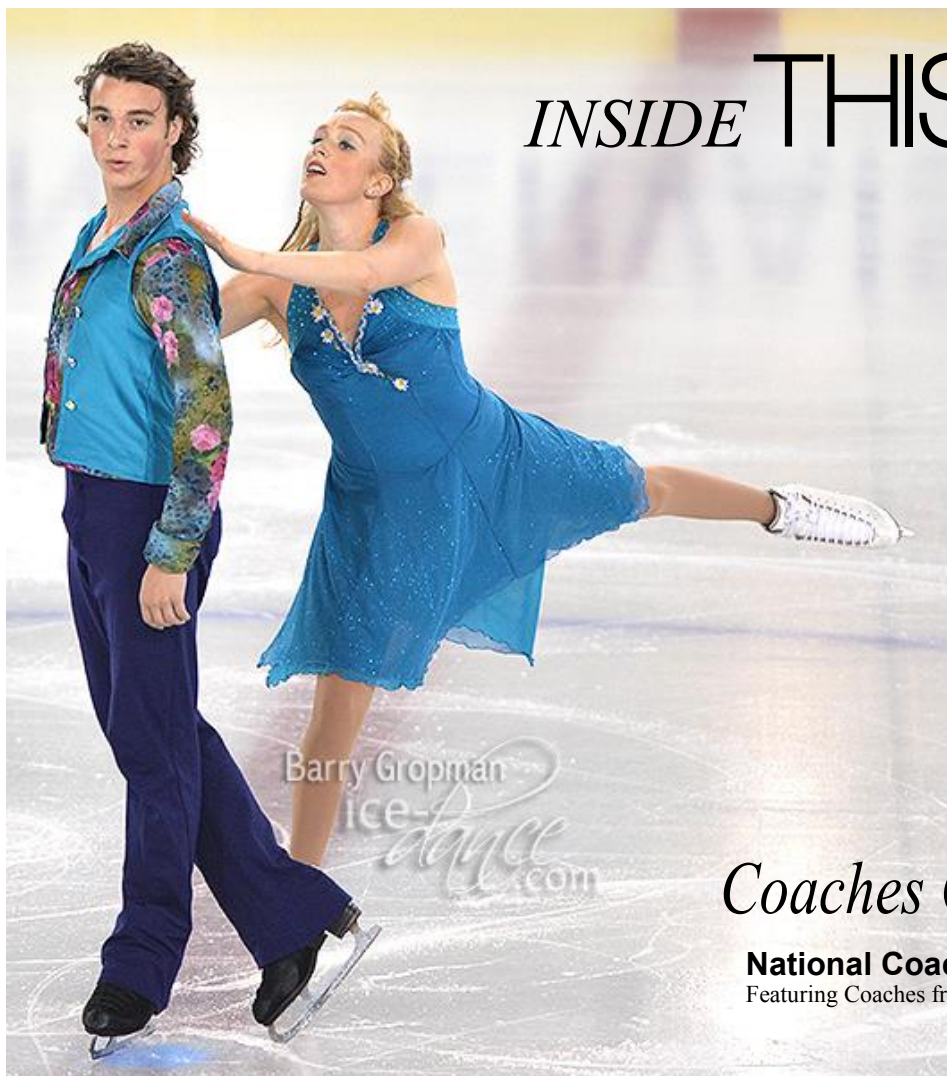
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Hilary Quick

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## A MESSAGE

# FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

---

September 2016

**W**elcome back everyone to another skating season. The season kicked off with two successful events: BC Summerskate and the ISU Adult Skating Championships. Congratulations to all the athletes and volunteers for outstanding events. Many BC athletes competed in the new Skate Canada Summer Series and were able to earn byes through to the Skate Canada Challenge event. Also, we have had many athletes compete on the Junior Grand Prix circuit. We are proud of these athletes and how they represent Canada and the section on the world stage.

By now clubs are in the middle of registration. This year's registration process has been much smoother than last year, hopefully registration numbers are up this Fall in every Club, as you continue to offer quality programming to all skaters. This year the BC government is making major changes to the Societies Act, we are currently navigating these changes and we will continue to offer our support to the Clubs that require assistance with this process. It is our objective that every Club have current and up to date bylaws. Our Club Ranking last year was successful and I congratulate the Clubs that were ranked. I

hope that you post your certificate proudly in your arena.

If you have any questions about anything in your Club, please contact your Region Chairman, they are always willing to be of assistance.

Have a great Season everyone!

Hilary Quick  
Chairman BC/YK Section  
Skate Canada



**Mississauga, Ontario  
October 27 - October 30**



**Tickets are On Sale Now for 2016 Skate Canada International**

[www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca)

# INTERNATIONAL

## BC/YK TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

### Past Events/ Results

Junior Grand Prix # 1, August 24-28th  
St. Gervais, France

**Olivia Gran– Ladies** **9th Place**

**Ashlynn Stairs/Lee Royer– Ice Dance** **7th Place**

Junior Grand Prix # 2, August 31-4th  
Ostrava, Czech Republic

**Danielle Wu/Nik Mirzakhani– Ice Dance** **7th Place**

Junior Grand Prix # 3, September 7-11th  
Yokohama, Japan

**Emily Bausback– Ladies** **10th Place**

Junior Grand Prix # 5, September 21-25th  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Sarah Tamura– Ladies** **8th Place**

**Ashlynn Stairs/Lee Royer– Ice Dance** **5th Place**

Nebelhorn Trophy, September 22-24th  
Oberstdorf, Germany

**Liam Firus– Senior Men** **5th Place**

### Upcoming Events

Junior Grand Prix #6, September 28-2nd  
Tallinn, Estonia

**Emily Bausback– Junior Ladies**

Autumn Classic International, September 29-1st  
Montreal, QC

**Larkyn Austman– Senior Ladies**

**Haley Sales/Nikolas Wamstecker– Senior Ice Dance**

Ondrej Nepela Trophy, September 30-2nd  
Bratislava, Slovakia

**Kelsey Wong– Senior Ladies**

**Kevin Reynolds– Senior Men**

Skate Canada International, October 28-30th  
Mississauga, ON, Canada

**Liam Firus– Senior Men**

**Kevin Reynolds– Senior Men**





# *Junior Ice Dancers Ashlynnne Stairs and Lee Royer*

## PLACE 5th IN SLOVENIA

---



**L**JUBLJANA, SLOVENIA: The final day of competition at the ISU Junior Grand Prix event in Ljubljana, Slovenia finished with the women's and the ice dance events. Ice dancers Ashlynnne Stairs, 16, Calgary, Alta. and Lee Royer, 18, St. Albert, Alta finished in fifth scoring 73.62 in the free for an overall score of 124.14 "Our performances this week

were definitely a lot better than our last competition. It felt a lot stronger and we got our components higher," said Stairs.

Americans Lorraine McNamara and Quinn Carpenter took home the gold with 148.62 points, Russians Sofia Polishchuk and Alexander Vakhnov won the silver with 144.76 points, and Anastasia Skoptcova and Kirill Aleshin also of Russia

took bronze with 143.78 points.

Sarah Tamura, 15, Burnaby, B.C., finished in eighth place after scoring 89.99 in the free program for an overall score of 141.41.

"I fought through this program today, definitely was not my best but I know what to work on for my next junior grand prix in two weeks. It's a start but I have a lot of things to work on. I am proud that I

fought through it and didn't give up," said Tamura.

Rika Kihira of Japan took gold with 194.24 points, Marin Honda also of Japan won silver with 178.75 points and Alina Zagitova of Russia won bronze with 177.38 points.

On Friday, Joseph Phan, 15, Laval, Que., finished in fifth place in the men's category. Canada does not have an entry in pairs at this event

Story from [www.skatecanada.ca](http://www.skatecanada.ca)

<https://skatecanada.ca/2016/09/junior-ice-dancers-ashlynnne-stairs-and-lee-royer-place-fifth-in-slovenia/>

**Follow more International Assignment stories on**  
**[www.skatecanada.ca](http://www.skatecanada.ca)**

# 2016 ISU International Figure Skating Competition

## ADULT

*Front Page Story—Continued*  
By Brian Pound

Beacom won the Masters Elite Men free skate competition with the second highest score ever awarded in this competition since it began in 2005 (98.90). He scored the record (99.73) at the Oberstdorf, Germany, competition in June.

Beacom had earlier won the Masters Elite Men A event at UBC. Canada's most decorated medalists at this event were Diana Barkley and Geoff Squires of White Rock and Langley, who won the Master Elite Short Dance and then showed their versatility by

capturing gold in Adult Pair Artistic. They also won the bronze medal in Masters free dance. Kelowna's Donna Bergvinson won gold in Bronze women's IV free skate and Bronze IV A. Eva Davies of Kamloops captured first place in women's

Gold I free skate and Masters women's I A. Ontario's Carol Ann Lehovich won the Bronze women's II free skate and A events. The competition was for skaters between the ages of 28 and 78.





# *What does it feel like to do a triple axel?* *In his own words— the champion himself,* KURT BROWNING

---

*Photo: Kurt Browning working with skaters at a seminar hosted on Vancouver Island Sept 17th, 2016.*

*Image credit: J.R. Rardon/PQB NEWS Staff*



## **Sally Rehorick, member BC/YK Section—Introduction**

*Kurt Browning is, without a doubt, one of the most influential and adored skaters of our time. In 1989, I was lucky enough to be the team leader for the Canadian delegation to the Paris World Championships. The day before the competition was to begin, the ice in the main arena had melted completely down to the concrete floor for reasons that were technical in nature. The Worlds Committee organized for the skaters to do their practices at a rink 2 hours outside of Paris. I accompanied the men's team to this new practice rink and witnessed something that can only be described as "other-worldly". Kurt and the champion from the Soviet Union (later Russia), Viktor Petrenko, took to the ice with fire in their eyes and energy in their skates. An informal dual of jumps took place between them: Kurt doing a huge triple Axel, followed by Viktor doing the same. Then the competition of all triples: 3T met with 3T; 3F met with 3F; 3L met with 3Lo. It was an exciting, yet friendly, match between two of the greatest competitors of our era. On the bus on the way back into Paris, I asked the two of them what it felt like to do a triple axel, a jump which, to this day, is my favourite to watch. They traded ideas and images for a while, but I realized that it was difficult for them to put into words a feeling of such magnitude. The next morning, I found a letter that had been pushed under my door back at the hotel. It was from Kurt and he has given me permission to share with the Thin Ice readers what it feels like to do a triple axel — and other amazing insights. In his own words — here is his letter:*

*- Continued on the next page*

*Letter from Kurt Browning to Sally Rehorick (team leader for Canadian team to Worlds in Paris in 1989). Written after a conversation with Sally, Kurt and Viktor Petrenko about what it "feels" like to do a triple axel.*

*Note that this letter was written as a private communication. However, an edited version of this was used by Kurt in his first book. Kurt, Forcing the Edge.*

5:55 A.M.

March 12/89

Dear Sally,

As you can see by the time I am not sleeping through the night yet, not when I keep taking 4 hour plus naps during the day. But, I felt it was important if I wanted to skate well yesterday! It is the skate yesterday that makes me write this note. I find it very interesting that you have an interest in jumping & flying & spinning. Not surprising. But interesting. I truly believe that it was the jumping that has kept me in this sport. I still have trouble conceiving the awesome power that a pair of (Figure) skates contain. I remember the day I got my first pair, ever, & I was very cocky & I thought it would be easy. I learned respect for the skates immediately as my first step sent me crashing to the ice hurting my knee, but it was only a slight bruise as compared to the one on my ego!

Skates – 1            Kurt – 0

After a while I found a use for the picks on the tips of these blades. With enough speed you could skate at the boards and run right up to the top of them. Like a squirrel running up a tree. Thought this was a great trick, until the maintenance found out!

Basically, these skates had so much to offer, as compared to hockey skates. Hockey was more fun, I still love hockey, but skating intrigued me.

What am I trying to say! Thoughts come to me too fast and I wish I had my typewriter here. I talk and think a mile a minute.

Jumping. As a kid I was always finding interesting and unique ways to try to break my neck. Guess that helps now in that there is no fear of the jump, just an incredible amount of respect. This respect I've had since the very first fall I took so long ago. When people ask me what is it like to do jumps, especially the bigger ones, I get excited because I would love to share with them the feeling. But words don't cut it. The only real way to share it is by showing you & hoping that from the demonstration you can create your own feeling.

Feeling:

I feel too much. Feel the ice, the air, where I am in

the air. Too Much. I think that I truly understand the technique of jumping as much as anyone in the world, thanks to Mr. J—a dance coach. But understanding is not enough. Love, live & feel. This is why I call myself an emotional jumper! I thrive on emotions, situations, challenges.

ex. Victor's t-axel/t-toe yesterday, this jumping excites me, stirs me, challenges me! Like two wizards, I think because the power comes from inside, not the legs!

I think this is why I reach for an example that is out of the whole element of skating when I describe the feeling. The feeling of a perfectly executed quad toe is something that only 4 or 5 people in the world could conceive but it's not the physical part as much as the sense of satisfaction. That unleashing so much power and yet sustaining a sense of control.

--like jumping a horse.

It could be the follow-through of the throw, or the instinctive quality of throwing, and nailing, a target with an object. It has to be a very hard throw & it is better to be at an object you actually did not expect to hit.

Wham!! Then, just a second of amazement as you ponder what you did. Then just let that feeling of accomplishment flood you.

I feel so comfortable when I watch someone and truly believe that they have found their calling. I feel this content when I skate, this might be why the winning side of the skating is an after effect of the skating. Not something that should be worried about before you step out on the ice.

And if your lucky, you won't hit your pick!!

--hope in a small way that this helps you in understanding. I enjoyed writing this out.

I think we both share a love of this sport, eh!

Kurt

*National*

# COACHES WEEK

---



The BC/YK Section was thrilled to participate in National Coaches Week which took place September 17-25, 2016. National Coaches Week was a week to celebrate the tremendous positive impact coaches have on athletes and communities across Canada. We asked for Skaters and Clubs to submit their Coaches for recognition and we received a ton of entries. Throughout the week over 40 Coaches were featured on our website and social media pages! Below are a few of the posts!



You can find all of the submission on our website [www.skatinginbc.com](http://www.skatinginbc.com) , Facebook Page Skate Canada British Columbia/YT, or on our Twitter Page [Skate Canada BC/YT](#)



# National COACHES WEEK

---



**Murray Carey**  
Saanich FSC of Victoria  
Caring, Innovative, Perceptive



**Tammy Cadwell**  
Kind Hearted, Knowledgeable, Supportive



**Yuan-Qin Leong**  
Sunset FSC  
Supportive, Hard Working, Patient

# CLUB RANKING

## 2016/2017 CRITERIA

<b>Platinum Ranking</b>	<b>100 Points</b>
<b>Gold Ranking</b>	<b>75 Points</b>
<b>Silver Ranking</b>	<b>50 Points</b>
<b>Bronze Ranking</b>	<b>25 Points</b>

**C**ongratulations to all the Clubs that submitted their Club Ranking for the 2015-16 season. We hope that you saw your results in the June 2016 Issue of Thin Ice. This season the timeline for the Club Ranking will be April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. Attached is the criteria and point rankings for this season.

Each year the criteria may vary depending upon what the Section feels Clubs should be focusing on. This year the largest “points” will be given to Clubs that Increase their Club Membership. The form to be completed online will be available on the BC/YK website April 1st, 2017. This form must be completed by April 15, 2017.

Results will be announced at the 2017 Section AGM. The results will give Clubs either a Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum ranking. Clubs will be emailed a certificate stating the ranking that they have achieved. This certificate may be posted in your arena. The list of Clubs will also be posted on our [www.skatinginbc.com](http://www.skatinginbc.com) website, and published in Thin Ice. Good Luck to All Clubs!

This year, the April survey will have the following items on it. Please collect and keep your proof of activities throughout the year.

Held your Club AGM Attach your Notice of Meeting	5 points
Club is running the new CanSkate Program Attach a photo of your session	5 points
Your Club held a Program Assistant Training Session Attach a photo of your session	5 points
Club had an increase in general membership over last year, <u>Or</u> Increased general membership by over 10% Office will Confirm	10 points 15 points
Someone from your Club attended your Region AGM List Person	10 points
Someone from your Club attended the 2016 BC/YK Section AGM List Person <u>OR</u> if your Club is located more than 200km from Burnaby, you sent in a proxy and watched the AGM via Live Stream Send in a Photo of the Live Stream	10 points 10 points
Registered a Club member to vote at the 2016 Skate Canada Ice Summit Attach a copy of voting token	10 points
Skaters from your Club attended your Region Championship Competition in February 2017 List Skater	5 points
Skaters from your Club attending one of the Pond to Podium Super Series Competitions List Skater and Competition	5 points
Skaters from your Club attended at least 1 Section or Region Field Training Program List Skater	5 points
Your Club financially supported your coach(es) further education at seminars, workshops, clinics, etc Attach copy of registration	10 points
Your Club submitted nomination(s) for a Section or Region Award List nominee and award nominated for	10 points
Your Club submitted an article to BC Thin Ice during the 2016-17 season Attach copy of article	5 points
Your Club can confirm all Club Coaches are Registered and in Good Standing with Skate Canada. This means they have paid their membership fee, can provide proof of First Aid, BackCheck, NCCP Status, and have agreed to the Coaches Code of Ethics, OR have a valid BC/YK 2016-17 Coaches Card. List Coaches, Office will confirm	5 points

# Welcome Back!

Abbotsford Skating Club



A huge congratulations to all our skaters who had success this summer in both testing and competing!

No matter the age we can't keep our kids off the ice!

ME: \*LANDS JUMP PERFECTLY\*  
MOM: \*DOESN'T WATCH\*  
ME: \*SKATES CLEAN PROGRAM\*  
MOM: \*PLAYS ON PHONE\*  
ME: \*TRIPS OVER TOEPICK\*  
MOM: \*DECIDES TO LOOK UP\*



We are looking forward to another amazing year with our Coaching team and dedicated skaters!



# Connaught skating club

## Summertime Fun!

The 2016 Summer Season was a busy one at Connaught SC with many competitions, club events and international visitors.

Our skaters participated in a total of 4 different Summer Competitions across Canada, starting in; Alberta at the Wild Rose Invitational, then at the Quebec Summer Championships in Montreal, at the SaskSkate Invitational in Regina, and our skaters wrapped up the summer at BC's very own BC SummerSkate Championships with a total of 69 competitors. Connaught Skaters took home a total of 19 medals throughout the summer! A **big congratulations** to all the skaters who trained hard this summer and brought an excellent energy to the rink every day!

## JUNIOR ACADEMY CAMP

This Summer Connaught hosted our first day camp inviting JA Skaters to come spend the day learning about all aspects of skating, from on ice training to off ice dance, costume design and famous Canadian Figure Skaters. Looking forward to this camp next year.



## Canada Day Parade

This year a group of our skaters marched in the Steveston Salmon Festival, Canada Day Parade. They represented the club proudly and even entertained the crowd with some off ice jumping and performances!

## Annual Summer BBQ

Connaught SC hosted it's 5th Annual Summer BBQ this past August. The BBQ is a great way to celebrate our skaters, coaches, parents and volunteers and all the hard work they put in over the summer. This year the BBQ was full of sun, games, pool time and of course some well deserved rest and relaxation for the skaters.



CONGRATULATIONS to Mitchell Gordon on being selected to represent Canada at the ISU Challenger Series, US International Figure Skating Championships in Salt Lake City, Utah.



CONGRATULATIONS to Annie Lin on being selected to represent Taipei at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Cup of Mordova in Saransk, Russia.



This September Connaught SC welcomes international visitors James Thompson of Australia and Mayu Okura of Japan. Both James and Mayu have trained with us in seasons past and we are excited to welcome them back!

# LANGLEY SKATING CLUB



[www.skatelangley.com](http://www.skatelangley.com)

Happy September skaters! Hard to believe the summer is behind us and the leaves are changing colours already. This can only mean one thing, Langley Skating Club's 2016-2017 winter season has begun. We have many exciting events planned for this upcoming skating year at all levels.

CanSkate & PreCanSkate:	Junior & Senior Figure Skating Programs:
Jungle Theme Days—October 3rd, 4th and 5th	Fall Club Competition Simulations—October 15th
Halloween Theme Days—October 24th, 25th and 26th	Club Seminar—October 8th-10th
	Autumn Leaves Competition—October 21st-23rd
	Test Day—November 18th
	Jingle Blades Competition— November 25-27th

We are also very excited for this season's Ice Show. December 17, 2016 Langley Skating Club will be putting on a seasonal ice show, celebrating our skaters at all levels! Its not too late to take part in this action packed 2016-2017 season, winter registration is open right up to November 19, 2016.

Our skating club runs mostly on volunteer hours to help keep our costs down. We are always looking for new people with fresh ideas. Older skaters or parents who are looking to give back to their community are encouraged to reach out to our registrar ([registrar@skatelangley.com](mailto:registrar@skatelangley.com)).







# SUNGOD SKATING CLUB

[www.sungodskatingclub.com](http://www.sungodskatingclub.com)

Our Sungod skaters have had a busy summer. Our competitive track skaters ended their spring session in mid June and climbed right into summer training mode – literally! The last week of June was our Club Boot Camp, and with the theme of “GRIT”, each skater went through on ice drills, off ice conditioning skills, and the week concluded with a trip up the Grouse Grind, where grit was required to push to the top of the mountain. Our youngest skater to complete the challenge was just six years old, and all athletes exceeded coach expectations with their finish times up The Grind. What a great way to kick off a summer season.



To keep things fun for summer, the Club created “*Theme Thursdays*”, which included beach day, crazy hair day, face painting day and more. Skaters from CanSkate to Senior Competitive participated and this made for some great summer memories on the ice.

With the hard work of coaches and athletes, many Sungod skaters competed in Summer Skate, held in Burnaby BC in August, where they put down some great performances on the ice. Special congratulations to all the first time Star 1 skaters who stepped into their first competition with smiles on their faces and skills on their blades. Our intermediate and senior skaters also did not disappoint and ended the summer season on a high note.

This fall, Sungod welcomes a new addition to the coaching team, Mr. Jeff Trott. Jeff joins us from Skate Oakville and before moving here to B.C this fall, he developed, designed and directed the only “Theatre on Ice” program in the entire country, but he also developed the most comprehensive off ice program as well. We are excited to see what energy and innovation Jeff brings to our Club!

CanSkate and Star Skate registration is open and ongoing at Sungod, so if you’re interested in getting on the ice, please contact our Club Administrator at [info@sungodskatingclub.com](mailto:info@sungodskatingclub.com)



# SUNSHINE COAST SKATING CLUB

**T**he Sunshine Coast Skating Club is back to full programming this September after the impossible seasonal closure of our two local arenas in March. We are delighted to carry on with our same coaching staff, Lesleigh Farr, Director of Skating, Daryl Austman and Brenda Harkin.

[sunshinecoastskatingclub.ca](http://sunshinecoastskatingclub.ca)

A group of Star Skaters and Director of Skating, Lesleigh Farr travelled to Victoria to join the Saanich Skating Club for a camp. A big thanks to Brenda Charity, Barb Turner and the Club for being such generous hosts.

We held a week summer boot camp the last week of August for all programs which was a good transition into the regular season.

The Sunshine Coast Skating Club (SCSC) presented recent Elphinstone Secondary graduate Caitlin Jarvis with a \$500 scholarship on June 28. Caitlin has been a long-time SCSC member. Some of her most notable achievements include: passing gold tests in Freestyle, Skills, and Interpretive by the age of 12; carrying the Olympic Torch through the community; representing our zone at BC Winter Games; and in 2012 being the recipient of the National StarSkate Award. Caitlin not only represented the club as a skater for many years, but both she and her mother, Jill Marie Jarvis, have represented the club by volunteering at the regional, provincial and national level in a number of capacities. Caitlin also volunteered for a number of years as a program assistant with the Club. She will be attending UBC Okanagan in a nursing program and attributes many of her life's successes to life lessons learned through figure skating.

Tracy Parker made an impressive showing at this year's International Adult Figure Skating Competition held in Vancouver August 29 to September 2, placing 5th out of 16 entries in her Free Skate Bronze III category, doing the Sunshine Coast, British Columbia and Canada proud.

The competition attracted 264 skaters from 17 countries, ages 28-78. Skaters competed in Mens and Ladies Free Skating, Pairs Free Skating, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating, from Bronze level to Masters Elite. "This was Tracy's first time competing in an International Competition



as it is usually only held in Oberstdorf, Germany. For the first time ever the International Skating Union hosted a second competition this year in Canada. It was a commendable effort and amazing job by Tracy especially since there was no ice here on the Coast to practice from March until the competition in August. I was especially impressed by her sportsmanship and how she welcomed the other athletes to Canada" said Lesleigh Farr, Tracy's Professional Coach.

"I had no idea there was this world of adult competitive figure skating and so when I saw the announcement for the Vancouver competition I knew I had to participate.

It was very exciting to attend the venue, meet so many skaters from around the world and then perform at such an event. I was pretty nervous not knowing what to expect but now that I've done it once I would like to do it again! It was a wonderful personal experience for me."

Tracy plans to compete in the Adult International competition in Germany, Spring 2018.

We will have Elvis Stojko join us for our annual performance in March, 11, 2017 the will be great experience for our skaters and the community.

We hope other neighbouring Clubs could join us, please contact us for details.

# VSC Vancouver Skating Club

## Welcome Neil Giroday to VSC OFF Ice Team!

Coached by Linda Brauckmann, Neil Giroday was the Junior Men's Figure Skating Champion of Canada, the Silver Medalist at the Canada Winter Games; Western Canadian Senior & Novice Men's Champion, and a member of Canada's International Skating Team. He twice won the Most Artistic award at the BC Championships. A professional actor, singer and dancer, Neil played Mr. Mistoffelees, Skimbleshanks and Alonzo, in more than 5 years, with Vienna, Zurich, Basel and First International tour of Cats. Other long running musicals include A Chorus Line, Chicago and The Wizard of Oz, in which he played the Lion. A certified Simonson Technique dance teacher, Neil has taught in New York & Vancouver, and will be on faculty at Capilano University in January 2017.

Neil teaches OFF Ice dance classes in somatic warm up, corrective alignment, balance, natural range of motion stretching and expressivity.



## Upcoming Events:

**Vancouver Skating Club Christmas Gala**  
"The Nutcracker on Ice & Family Skate with Santa"  
December 17th, 2016



## Winter Break Schedule:

Facility - Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre, 123 East 23rd St., North Vancouver

Tuesday through Friday

Dec 20, 21, 22, 23

9am - 11:15am

Tuesday through Friday

Dec 27, 28, 29, 30

9am - 11:15am

For more information:

Vancouver Skating Club, North Shore, 604.924.1134, [www.vancouver skatingclub.ca](http://www.vancouver skatingclub.ca)



# OKANAGAN REGION News

This week Coaches and skaters returned to the ice with enthusiasm and big goals for another great season. Last season was nothing short of successful as we had a vibrant CANSkate program, two tests days with 100% pass rate, and huge achievements from all levels of our Star Skaters.

Many of our first year Star 1's got to experience competition for the first time at Regionals in Kamloops, coming away with Bronze to Silver. Two of our Junior Bronze ladies, Kaitlyn Crerar and Brittany Leupin, moved on from Regionals to represent as part of the Okanagan Region team for Super Series Final, making their coaches and club proud! Super Series Final was a memorable competition for many skaters, including

Senior Bronze Ladies: Kaitlyn Crerar (9<sup>th</sup>), Brittany Leupin (13<sup>th</sup>) and Brookelyn Koersen who came in 7<sup>th</sup> in her final competition as a Junior Skater. Our club cheered on Brittany Leupin who achieved Gold in Junior Silver Dance, and Megan Holman who achieved Gold in Adult Silver Interpretive, Silver in Adult Gold Free Skate and Gold in Adult Gold Dance. (We are so pleased to see Megan at university and also on the ice as a new Coach in our club!) Hard work and determination paid off for Jaeda Ostoforoff, who won Silver in Junior Silver ladies, ending her season with a third place Provincial ranking, receiving a Super Series Trophy in Kelowna. Wrapping up her Junior skating with triple Gold status, Brookelyn Koersen Brookelyn!

In April, our Club celebrated

all skaters and Coaches with a wrap up banquet, where Coach Crerar handed out fun Coach's Awards, from "hard worker" to "nerves of steel"! We also thanked our long-time Club President, Karen Holman, for her years of endless volunteering and commitment to the Club. She has left very large shoes to fill by our new President, Kim Schwaerzle, who has already proven up to the task! After a focused spring skate, we cheered on skaters Abby Schwaerzle and Jenna Cooper who attended Victoria Day Super Series, coming home with 7<sup>th</sup> in Star 5 and 4<sup>th</sup> in Senior Bronze Ladies,

respectively. Well done skaters!

Our Club continued to bond over many summertime fundraisers in the communities of Armstrong and Vernon, and we are looking forward to more community involvement, including a Pumpkin Run/Walk in Armstrong. Plans are well under way and the excitement is building for Okanagan Interclub to be coming to our beautiful Norval arena this fall. See you on the ice!



## ARMSTRONG/ENDERBY SC



[www.armstrongskatingclub.com](http://www.armstrongskatingclub.com)



# MT. BOUCHERIE SKATING CLUB



[www.skatemtb.com](http://www.skatemtb.com)

Our skaters kept busy this summer attending several camps, training seminars and competitions.

The first competition our skaters attended was the Wild Rose Competition in Leduc, Alberta. The competition was attended by over 400 athletes from across 5 different provinces. Kira Koffler won the silver medal in the Juvenile Women U12 event Tianna Potts Placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the Pre-Novice Women. "Great Job!"

The next competition was 2016 Super Series Summerskate in Burnaby, B.C. Kira Koffler had a personal best score and won the bronze medal in the Juvenile Women U12 event. Taylor Flemming won the bronze medal in the Juvenile Women U14 event. Tianna Potts placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the Pre-Novice Women and had a new personal best score. Makenna Jensen placed 12<sup>th</sup> in the Novice Women and Kayla Smart won the bronze medal in the Junior Women event. "Congratulations Girls".

Following the Summer skate competition, Tianna Potts and Kira Koffler, who are part of the prospect team, were invited to attend the Development camp in Burnaby. They had 2 days of great training. Kayla Smart and Makenna Jensen attended a 3 day training course in Burnaby and received their NCCP Instruction Beginner Canskate Coach Pathway. "Congratulations to all of you!"

Donna Bergvinson competed in the International Adults Competition in Vancouver where she won 2 gold medals! One in the Bronze Ladies IV freeskate and the second gold medal was in the Bronze Women IV Artistic event. "Fantastic job Donna".

Everyone had a short break and we are now gearing up for a great start to the fall program of Learn to Skate, CanSkate, Tots, Pre Hockey and Fast Trackers (introductory figure skating). Registration is now open at [www.skatemtb.com](http://www.skatemtb.com) we look forward to welcoming everyone back!



Wildrose 2016  
medalist



International Adult  
2016 medalist

SummerSkate 2016  
medalists





# NICOLA VALLEY SKATING CLUB

[skatinginthevalley.blogspot.ca](http://skatinginthevalley.blogspot.ca)

*We're Back!!!*

Merritt, BC is proud to announce the resurrection of the Nicola Valley Skating Club! After a lot of hard work, dedication, and determination, the NVSC board members and coaching staff have finally made our way back into the figure skating world. While this is officially our first year we have been working for the last two years to reach this goal and are now proud to say we have! Canskate and Jr Star Skate are getting off to a fantastic start and are continually growing. Star skaters are progressing at a rapid rate and are gearing up for competitions! It has been quite a ride in the last year but it couldn't have gone better, the best is yet to come!



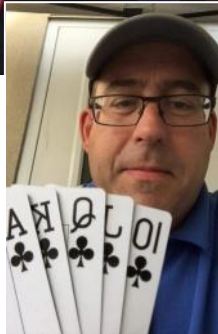


# VALLEYVIEW SKATING CLUB



<http://vvsc.ca/>

It has been a busy summer season at Valleyview Skating Club and we are ready to officially kick off skating! We had a great summer skating program with so many happy faces embracing the chilly arena when the temperature outside was soaring .



Great job ladies at the International Adult Figure Skating Competition. You all look fabulous and skated well!

Marilyn Triggs - Bronze Women 4 FreeSkate - 6th place, Bronze Women 4 Artistic - 6th place

Eva Davies - Gold Women 1 FreeSkate - 1st, Masters Artistic 1 - 1st

Lisa Henson - Gold Women 2 FreeSkate - 3rd, Masters Artistic 2 - 1st

Cheyenne Irvine - Gold Women 3 FreeSkate - 4th, Gold Artistic 3 - 3rd

Janet Dabner - Gold Women 3 FreeSkate - 8th, Gold Artistic 3 - 8th

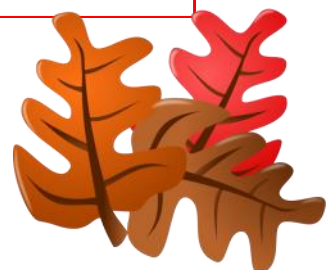


Thank you to all the skaters, parents, family and friends who helped work at the 13 stations for the Poker Run! Your time helps us earn volunteer money which helps our club's skating programs. Thank you, Erin and Tracey for organizing the event and to all of you that volunteered!



Our figure skating and CanPower is already underway and our CanSkate is starting September 26. Our program assistants are busy training for this already and we have brought on some new Junior coaches! Congratulations Haley Barber, Jana deJong, MacKenzie Sewell, and Anastasia Chupik for completing the coursework for the CanSkate coaching. We look forward to seeing them coaching our CanSkaters this fall.

We are busy now prepping and organizing for Autumn Leaves Super Series skating completion that we are hosting this year in Kamloops October 21-23. We look forward to a successful event and to see all the skaters out.







## NORTHERN BC CENTRE FOR SKATING

[www.skateprincegeorge.com](http://www.skateprincegeorge.com)

Summer arrived with some well deserved rest for skaters, coaches and parents. With no ice for six weeks the NBCCS athletes got some time to focus on their off-ice training, which this year took place at the Charles Jago Northern Sports Centre, and to enjoy summer.

Summer school started up with record numbers of skaters wanting to get back on their blades to stay in shape, hone and develop new skills and to have some fun on the ice. With theme days, skills classes and interpretive sessions, the skaters brought out some amazing moves and creativeness on the ice. Skaters from as far as Fort St. John, Quesnel and Vanderhoof joined our athletes on the ice.

For a few NBCCS skaters summer skating was a time to prepare for the 2016 BC SummerSkate in Burnaby. Justin Hampole, Reese Johnson, Myah Milner, Kailey Logan and Olivia Wankling represented the NBCCS and made us all proud with several personal bests. And with Myah Milner taking home a gold medal in Star 8 executing beautiful doubles and difficult spin variations. Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual MOVE clinic and the following family BBQ kick started the new season. The clinic saw Junior, Intermediate and Senior skaters and focused on Jump techniques, Edges, Spins and Performance. Cold fingers and feet, laughter and fun were had by all when our amazing volunteers met up at the Kin 1 Arena for the yearly club logo painting.

To get ready for yet another busy season of CanSkate, the NBCCS held a PA clinic for skaters 12 years and up. Without our energetic program assistants CanSkate wouldn't be possible.



*With a new season beginning we are looking forward to a year of new friendships, competitions and a lot of fun on and off the ice!*





# SNOW VALLEY SKATING CLUB

[www.kitimatsnowvalleyskatingclub.com](http://www.kitimatsnowvalleyskatingclub.com)



The Snow Valley Skating Club in Kitimat has just wrapped up a successful summer program. Guest coaches Adrian Vasile Matei and Eduard Lyutin were with us for summer school as well as our own SVSC coaches Cynthia Medeiros, Mikaela Carreiro and Mariah Carvalho. This year programs ranged from Pre-Canskate to Senior level were offered and well attended by all. Our Can-Skate session was completely full! We look forward to starting our regular season in the near future and welcoming all these skaters back!





# TERRACE SKATING CLUB

[www.terraceskatingclub.com](http://www.terraceskatingclub.com)



Terrace Skating Club held a "Kick Start Club Seminar" September 10th & 11th with guest moderator Kelly-lynn Champagne of the Coquitlam Skating Club. Skaters (Star 2 to Juvenile) learned new technique and new exercises for their jumps and spins then had a little fun with theatre on ice. "It's great that we have coaches in BC who want to share their knowledge with our northern club", said Jennifer Kuehne,

TSC Director of Skating. TSC welcomes back former skater, former Disney on Ice professional and now Skate Canada Coach Heather Hanna. Heather will be working along side coaches (and both former TSC skaters) Jennifer Kuehne & Kelsey Minhinnick in the figure skating programs. The Clubs lead learn to skate coach for Can Skate, Adult Skate & Can Power Skate is Shannon Benmore who is originally from Ontario. Good luck to everyone - we hope you have a successful season!





# VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION News



## CAMPBELL RIVER SKATING CLUB

[www.campbellriverskatingclub.com](http://www.campbellriverskatingclub.com)

The Campbell River Skating Club is jumping into the 2016/2017 season with a new Team of Coaches, online registration and plans for an Ice Show

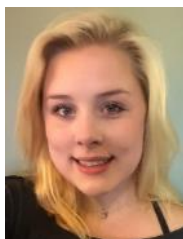
Welcome to...

*Head Coach*



Rae Anne Hesketh

*CanSkate Coach*



Julia Bowles

*Off Ice Coach and Freelance Coach*



Keri Bemister

We are pleased to have Rae Anne as our Head Coach with over 35 years of coaching experience. We also introduce Julia, a Senior skater who recently attended the CanSkate Coach training and is a coach-in-training being mentored by Rae Anne. We are also pleased to have Keri join our team. Keri will be focused on implementing our Off Ice Program following the philosophy of Skate Canada's Guide to Long-Term Athlete Development.

Our Off Ice Training Development goals for this season are...."Through providing Off-Ice classes that develop agility, coordination, balance, flexibility, cardio and strength training, to build a well-rounded skater following Skate Canada's Long Term Athlete Development Module. To introduce and educate skaters on warm-ups, cool-downs, stretching, proper nutrition and hydration as an important part of an athlete's daily routine."

### **And...**

We are excited to be able to offer online registration to our skating community. We were looking for something that would be a 'one stop shop' that would allow members to register for any of our programs, at their convenience, save our Club volunteers time with registration, fundraising/volunteering, email management and allow our Coaches a tracking mechanism for skater development. We found that Uplifter was exactly what we were looking for and it is far exceeding our expectations.

"Uplifter is a web-based club and athlete management system that makes it easy to create, track and manage the skill development goals and achievements of individual athletes, while greatly improving the efficiency of club operations and driving increased revenues."

**Congratulations** to these skaters who finished strong at the Super Series competition in Parksville.

Megan Weber, Bronze Medal  
Junior Silver Women

Sierra Petrovic, Silver Medal  
Star 4 over 13 yrs

Celeste Gale, Bronze Medal  
Star 4 under 13 yrs

# FULLER LAKE SKATING CLUB

[www.fullerlakeskatingclub.org](http://www.fullerlakeskatingclub.org)

Fuller Lake Skaters had an exciting year. Skaters attended 3 competitions. The highlight of the season was the ice show Ella on Ice.

Congratulations Award Winners April 2016!



## CANSKATE AWARDS

Pre-schooler of the Year – Alexandra Buckley  
Most Improved Pre-schooler – Jackson Masters  
Most Enthusiastic Pre-schooler – Samantha Davis

BMO Canskater of the Year & Medal –Nathan Windecker  
BMO Champion (Girl) Medal – Paloma Bravo-Frank  
BMO Champion (Boy) Medal – Grayson Thorpe-Douuble

Pre-Junior Skater of the Year – Michaelle Torres Hernandez  
Most Improved Pre-Junior – Shaylah Ward  
Sportsmanship – Dakota Tyre

Junior Skater of the Year – Julia Hussey  
Most Improved Junior – Daisy Troise  
Sportsmanship – Lexie Stajkowski

Intermediate Skater of the Year – Sophie Dawe  
Most Improved Intermediate – Lucy Street/Aaliyah Ward  
Sportsmanship – Sophie Dawe

Senior Skater of the Year – Naomi Eastman

## POWER SKATING AWARDS

Pre-Power Skater of the Year – Angus Donovan  
Most Improved Pre-Power – Jackson Beggs  
Sportsmanship – Finlay Vipond

Junior Power Skater of the Year – Oliva Wing/Jakob Poznecov  
Most Improved Junior Power – Jakob Grooms  
Sportsmanship – Zackery Neudorf

Senior Power Skater of the Year – Davin Campbell  
Most Improved Senior Power – Marcus Copp  
Sportsmanship – Keane Taylor

## SPECIAL AWARDS

Program Assistant of the Year – Paris Hanke







# JUAN DE FUCA SKATING CLUB

[www.juandefucaskatingclub.ca](http://www.juandefucaskatingclub.ca)

**T**he Juan de Fuca Skating Club had a very successful summer school with close to a 100% pass rate on test day – well done skaters! Congratulations to Nina Kovacik who passed her Gold Skills test!

The summer school was filled with fun events for all the skaters such as a movie night, and a beach party with a team competition on the beach - a scavenger hunt creative art design that was rated +3 GOE!!! We also had Tuesday Trivia contests with prizes, Watermelon Wednesdays, and Freezie Fridays. There were also fun theme dress up Fridays with prizes for all that participated, and 2 showcase/simulation evenings where the skaters performed their solos for family and friends. The skaters were kept busy training hard both on and off the ice. Many were also preparing for the Super Series BC Summer Skate competition in Burnaby as well as getting ready for the fall competitions.

Our fall season has started with 4 registration dates and our PA training. We are very fortunate to have in our club, 24 amazing Program Assistants to help with our great CanSkate program! We are excited to add Pre Power and CanPow-rSkate to our programs this season and we also look forward to the many theme days planned for CanSkate once again this year as well as a Bring a Friend day!

Also on the list of fun events for the skaters we plan to once again have our Spooky Spectacular Skate-a-thon, enter a float and participate in the Victoria Santa Light Parade, skate at Winter Wonderland and hopefully perform on the outdoor rink at Butchart Gardens. We also look forward to having all our club skaters perform in our Ice Show in March!

These are a few of the JDFSC highlights for the skaters of the 2016-2017 season. Our club continues to offer so much more than just skating!





# SAANICH SKATING CLUB OF VICTORIA

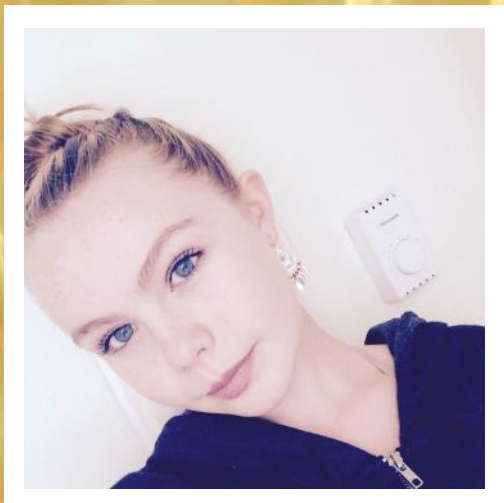
[saanichskatingclub.com/](http://saanichskatingclub.com/)



We had a successful summer skating program with two skaters, Kelly Hwang and Madeleine Cail passing their gold skill tests. The Juniors under the direction of Brenda Charity and Barb Turner and assisted by Kirsten Mawle were thriving in the new star 1-5 program. On September 8 and 9<sup>th</sup> we ran what the coaches considered the best PA clinic this far. By all indications it looks like our Canskate sessions are going to run like clockwork. The coaches are very fortunate to have such dedicated skaters assisting us. The executive members have been experimenting with a new registration system for the 2016-2017 season. It will take time to get out all of the wrinkles, but so far, so good. Saanich Skating Club is looking forward to a busy and productive new season, come skate with us!

# *Gold Feet*

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## ***Madelaine Cail***

I've been skating since I was 7 years old and I started skills about 3 years ago. I'm so happy to have completed my Gold skills after just learning them after a month. Skills has been a great way for me to improve my footwork and timing. This has been an incredible skating year and I hope that every skater has the chance to feel what it's like to have finished all their skills. Finally, I'd like to thank my coaches for teaching me my skills and improving my skating ability's.

## ***Ravie Cunningham***

Diamond Dances  
Racquet Club of Victoria

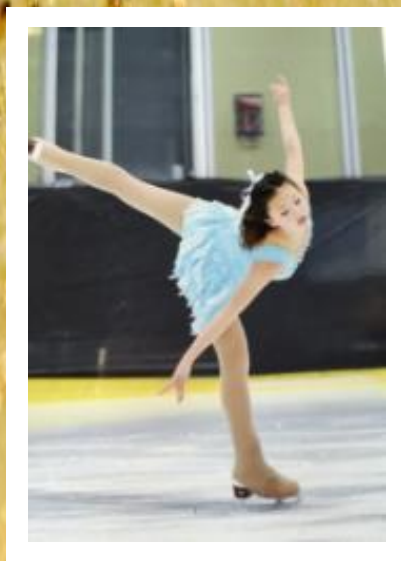
## ***Paris Hanke***



Fuller Lake S.C. would like to congratulate Paris for completing her Gold Skills. Paris is 17 years old and working on her last Gold Dance, Gold Interpretive and Senior Silver Freeskate.

## ***Kelly Hwang***

My name is Kelly Hwang and I am 13 years old. I have been skating for 5 years with the Saanich Skating Club. I'd like to thank my coaches Barb, Murray and Brenda for being awesome coaches. I am going to work towards getting my gold feet in dance and freeskate



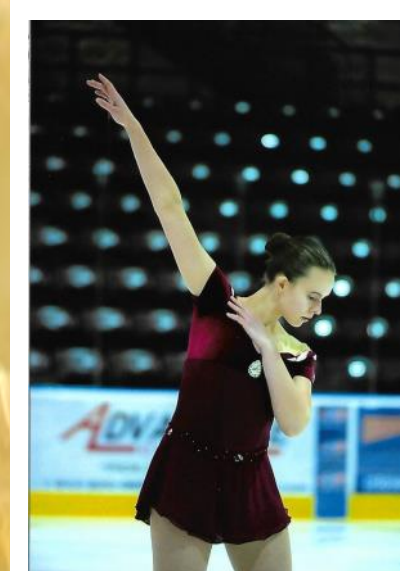


# *Gold Feet*

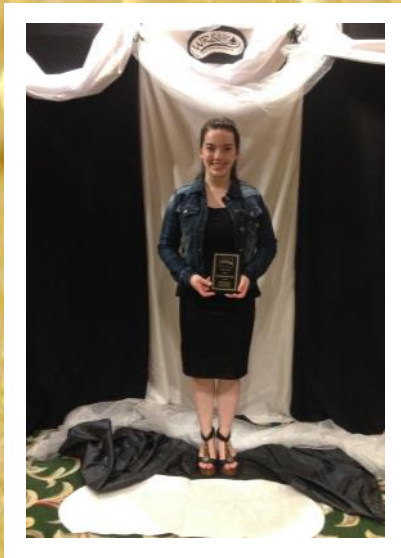
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## ***Nina Kovacik***

Congratulations to Nina Kovacik for passing her gold skills test this summer at the Juan de Fuca Skating Club. Nina has had a love for skating her whole life and enjoys every aspect of the sport. When she's not skating, Nina loves cross country running, reading, skiing and spending time outdoors exploring the west coast.



## ***Rachelle Morrell***



Congratulations to Rachelle Morrell on obtaining a Triple Gold level in Skills, Dance and Interpretative in the 2015-2016 skating season and receiving her plaque at WRSSSC's awards ceremony this spring. Special thanks to coaches Sandra Pennington, Rob Woodley and Colleen Laferriere for all your help and support over the years!!

## ***Kirsten Reder***

Gold Skills  
Racquet Club of Victoria



# *Gold Feet*

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## *Amber Ree*

Fuller Lake S.C. would like to congratulate Amber for completing her third Gold Test her Gold Dances. Amber is 6 years old. She has also passed her Gold Skills and Interpretive. She is working on her Senior Silver Freeskate.



## *Caiden Varasteh*



Fuller Lake S.C. would like to congratulate Caiden for completing her Gold Skills. Caiden is 15 years old and working on her last Gold Dance, Silver Interpretive and Junior Silver Freeskate.

## *Jazmin Wheeler*



Fuller Lake S.C. would like to congratulate Jazmin for completing her Gold Dances this summer. Jazmin is 13 years old and working on her Senior Skills and Junior Silver Freeskate

## *Nicole Yung*

Gold Skills & Gold Interpretive  
Racquet Club of Victoria

# EVENTS

2016/2017 Season

## Calendar

### Autumn Classic International

September 29-1, 2016  
Pierrefonds, QC

### Super Series Autumn Leaves

October 21-23, 2016  
Kamloops, BC

### Skate Canada International

October 27-30, 2016  
Mississauga, ON

### Super Series BC/YK Section Championships

November 10-13, 2016  
Kelowna, BC

### Vancouver Island Interclub Competition

November 18-20, 2016  
Chemainus, BC

### Okanagan Interclub Competition

November 25-27, 2016  
Armstrong, BC

### Jingle Blades Competition

November 25-27, 2016  
Vancouver, BC

### Skate Canada Challenge Event

November 30-4, 2016  
Pierrefonds, QC

### Kla How Ya Competition

December 2-4, 2016  
Nechako, BC

### East Kootenay Invitational

December 2-4, 2016  
Cranbrook, BC

### Featured event



#### Super Series Autumn Leaves

October 21-23, 2016  
Kamloops, BC

### Gold Nugget Competition

December 9-11, 2016  
Whitehorse, YT

### BC/YK Open Synchro & Adult Competition

December 10, 2016  
South Surrey, BC

### ISU Grand Prix Final

December 8-11, 2016  
Marseille, France



For more information on these events please visit our website

[www.skatinginbc.com](http://www.skatinginbc.com)





**Special - T Group Events**

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**ODLUM BROWN**

Investing for Generations®





# About Us...

*We are the Skate Canada British Columbia and Yukon Section. We are run by a Board of Directors and Executive Committee supported by individual and specific discipline and operational committees. The BC/YTK Section has approximately 19,000 skaters, 115 clubs, 430 coaches and 229 officials which we serve.*



## Mission Statement

*The BC/YK Section of Skate Canada is dedicated to the principals of enabling every person in British Columbia and Yukon to participate in skating throughout their lifetime for Fun, Fitness and/or Achievement. The BC/YK Section is also dedicated to those athletes in pursuit of excellence. We provide programs and opportunities that develop high performance skills for skating and life.*

## Value Statement

*The BC/YK Section of Skate Canada is a volunteer organization run by the guidelines of a successful business. The volunteers determine the direction and the professional staff navigate the course. We will provide value for each membership dollar by providing guidance and service to all members. We ensure there are programs for those who want to skate for fun and those who skate for achievement.*

## Vision Statement

*The BC/YK Section of Skate Canada envisions providing safe, effective and fun skating programs for every person in British Columbia and Yukon who has the desire to glide on ice. It is our vision to provide programs that will bring joy to those who simply want to skate in circles and pride to those who want to circle the world while representing our section and country.*

coming soon >>>

## In The Next Issue

Skate Canada International  
Skate Canada Challenge Event  
Club News  
Gold Feet  
Coaching Updates

## Contact Us

Skate Canada  
BC/YK  
#2-6501 Sprott Street  
Burnaby, B.C.  
V5B 3B8

**Phone:** 604 205 6960  
**Fax:** 604-205-6962  
**Toll Free:** 1-888-752-8322  
[www.skatinginbc.com](http://www.skatinginbc.com)

## Board of Directors

**Chairman:** Hilary Quick  
**Past Chairman:** Lorraine Mapoles  
**Vice-Chairman:** Sharon Dahl  
**Director of Finance:** Syd Hughes  
**Director:** Wendy Martin-Stroyan  
**Director:** Shelley Verhelst  
**Director:** Joan Omasta  
**Technical Committee Chair:** Janice Hunter  
**Competition Chair:** Margaret Warwick  
**Executive Director:** Ted Barton  
**Athlete's Trust:** Diane Nielsen  
**Coaches Rep:** Marilyn Kreuzinger  
**Skater Development Chair:** Laura Carr

## Region Chairmen

**BC Coast:** Lori Oxland  
**CNCR:** Carol Geisbrecht  
**Kootenay:** Jacinta Marina  
**Okanagan:** Janet Gordon  
**VI:** Lynne Henderson- Drake

## Section Staff

<b>Ted Barton</b>	Executive Director
<b>Danielle Williams</b>	Director of Operations
<b>Bev Viger</b>	Financial Administrator
<b>Courtney Baerg</b>	Coaching & Communications Coordinator
<b>Steve Muff</b>	Director of Development
<b>Jamie McGrigor</b>	Director of Development



**We want to hear from you!**  
Send in your Club News & Photos  
for the opportunity to be featured in Thin Ice!  
[courtney@skatinginbc.com](mailto:courtney@skatinginbc.com)