

May 2014
Spring Issue

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Message from the President:

What an exciting year this has been. Last April, the Hamilton Skating Club kicked off its 75th year with a gala dinner dance and ice show featuring the Olympic pairs team of Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch, Spanish Olympian, Javier Fernandez and the always entertaining, Shawn Sawyer, as well as our own HSC skaters who showcased their talents. Many alumni were in attendance reminiscing and meeting current members. One year later we came full circle and ended our anniversary year with a highly entertaining ice show, our tribute to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. I would like to offer a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of our ice show!

This past year The Hamilton Skating Club was approached by the City to take over all of its “learn to skate” programs. This provided us with the opportunity to offer skating programs, not only on our home ice on Hester Street, but also to many children in the east end of the city. Initially, registration for our “satellite” programs was challenging due to the implementation of full day every day Kindergarten. Our CanSkate coordinator, Lynda Thompson and our Skating and Club Director, Paul MacIntosh are working closely with the City’s Rec Department to negotiate ice times that will allow for an increase in CanSkate registration.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at hsc.board@hamiltonskating.org.

Freda Le Donne
Hamilton Skating Club - President

Hamilton
Skating
Club

25 Hester
Street
Hamilton,
Ontario

Satellite
sites:

Saltfleet

Stoney
Creek

Valley Park

Message from the Director of Skating Development, Bryce Davison



I'm pleased to see HSC's success in the 2013/14 skating season. Our focus on quality skating and preparing well rounded athletes has begun to show and is has been noticed in the Western Ontario Section. We have had some great results at all levels of competition and will strive to continue this forward progress.

For the upcoming season we have introduced a few new programming ideas and are also looking into developing new programs for our younger members. The main focus of these programs is to remain at the forefront of youth Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD). We have already taken steps to initiate this with added youth talent identification and the reintroduction of the Fast Track Program. The Competitive Development Program is the continuation of Fast Track program. This is a streamlined process from CanSkate to Competitive Skating with development of strong fundamental skating skills being paramount. Along with skill development on-ice, true understanding of athleticism will be encouraged through the exposure to the mental and physical discipline in off-ice classes.

For the upcoming season, HSC athletes and coaches should continue to pursue having 'teams' of athletes qualify through Western Ontario Sectionals on to Challenge and National Championships as well as StarSkate Championships. We can all strive for and expect more out of ourselves and as a Team of "HSC'ers" we can encourage and celebrate each other's success.

Gold Test Skaters April 2, 2013-March 31, 2014

Congratulations to the following skaters who have completed their Gold Test Levels.



Gold Dance	Gold Skill	Gold Freeskate	Gold Interpretive
Nicole Suszek Matthew Korkoian Katie Hunter	Sally Nguyen Hillary Baran Matthew Korkoian Gabby LeDonne Nicole Suszek Savannah Quinn Felicia Bonitatibus	Felicia Bonitatibus Yodit Tewoderos Gabrielle LeDonne Megan Bishop	Alexandra Rebalka Jessica Wiskar

Competitive Skating Highlights 2013-2014

Western Ontario Sectional Championships

HSC had twenty-five entries at sectionals with representation in singles from pre-juvenile to junior and with two dance teams in pre-novice. Four skaters qualified for Skate Canada Challenge: Felicia Bonitatibus and Matthew Korkoian 2nd in Pre-Novice Dance, Alistair Lam 1st in Pre-Novice Men and Maysie Poliziaini and Keiko Marshall were 2nd and 3rd respectively in Junior Women. Congratulations to all the competitive team members for all the dedication leading up to Sectionals. Competitive Team members for 2013-2014 included:

Junior Women: Maysie Poliziaini , Keiko Marshall; **Novice Women:** Louise Hains, Connelly Hogarth, Bralyn Nelson, Jessica Wiskar, Katie Hunter; **Pre-Novice Men:** Alistair Lam; **Pre-Novice Women:** Felicia Bonitatibus, Sally Nguyen, Hannah Skirrow, Hilary Baran, Yodit Twoderos, Rachel Moran; **Pre-Novice Dance:** Felicia Bonitatibus/Matthew Korkoian, Bridget LeDonne/Jakub Smal; **Juvenile U14:** Kaelyn Perisic, Nicole Juhas, Gabrielle LeDonne; **Pre-Juvenile U11:** Bridget LeDonne, Caelin Estrabillo, Giuliana Corsini; **Pre-Juvenile U14:** Sophia Ranali, Taylor Huff

Western Ontario STARSkate Championships and STARSkate Provincial Championships

Hamilton had over 30 skaters compete at the STARSkate Championships. Hamilton was well represented from Pre-Preliminary to Senior Silver. Highlights of the competition were the strong skates by Megan Bishop who finished 3rd in Senior Silver and Elizabeth Dejong who finished 1st in Junior Silver. Both qualified to skate at the Skate Ontario STARSkate Provincial Championships with Megan placing 8th and Elizabeth coming 5th.



Elizabeth Dejong
STARSkate Junior Silver



Megan Bishop
STARSkate Senior Silver

Skate Canada Challenge (Regina, Saskatchewan)

Novice, Junior and Senior level competitors from across Canada who qualified in the top 4 at their regional sectionals competed at Challenge. For the pre-novice category, this was their final competition and represented their Nationals. Junior Women competitor Keiko Marshall had personal best performances in both the short and long program, highlighted by landing double axel, triple salchow and triple loop in the long program and placed 5th. Maysie had a strong long program moving up six spots. Both Keiko and Maysie qualified for Nationals. Alistair Lam finished 18th in Pre-novice men with an exciting long program. Felicia Bonitatibus and Matthew Korkoian placed 13th in a strong field of Pre-Novice Dance.



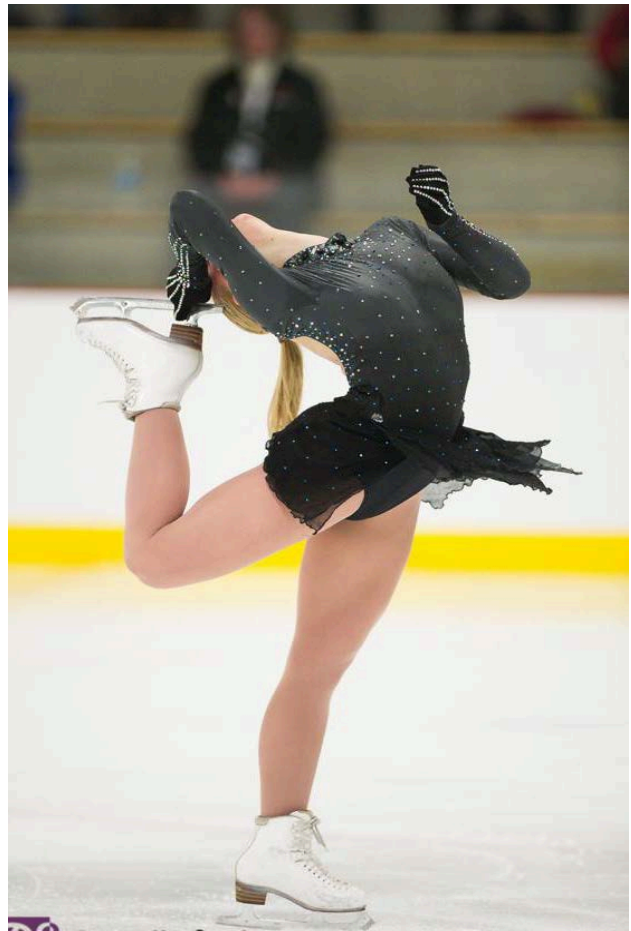
**Felicia Bonitatibus and Matthew Korkoian
Pre-Novice Dance**

Skate Canada Canadian Tire National Skating Championships

The Canadian National Championships were held in Ottawa, Ontario January 9-15, 2014. Since it was an Olympic Year, the national championships were held earlier and there was a buzz of excitement throughout senior nationals. This year, Hamilton had two skaters qualify by finishing in the top 18 out of 49 skaters in the Junior Ladies event at Skate Canada Challenge. Maysie Poliziani, last year's Novice national silver medalist, placed 13th and Keiko Marshall, competing at her first national championship finished 15th. It was an exciting experience being with all the national level competitors. Highlights included watching Patrick Chan and Tessa and Scott win repeat national titles.



**Keiko Marshall, Junior Ladies
Long Program, Spartacus**



**Maysie Poliziani, Junior Ladies
Short Program, Requiem for a Dream**

Ontario Winter Games

The Ontario Winter Games are held every two years and bring together 27 different sports representing some of Ontario's best young athletes. Figure skaters qualify for Winter Games by placing top 3 at their sectionals in juvenile, pre-novice or novice singles, pairs or dance. Alistair Lam won the bronze medal in pre-novice men with a program that included a triple toe and several double axels. Felicia Bonitatibus and Matthew Korkoian placed a strong 4th in pre-novice dance.

Alistair Lam described his experience:

"The skating for Ontario Winter Games was held in Orillia this year. I enjoyed getting to know my competitors and teammates better. It was much more exciting and fun than any other competition because we have more responsibility and get to stay away from our parents. I liked the fact that the environment was competitive but positive and we get to cheer all our teammates on."



**Alistair Lam, on the Right.
Pre-Novice Men, Bronze Medalist**

Hamilton Skating Club Carnival “Pass the Torch”

On April 5th the Hamilton Skating Club paid homage to the 2014 Winter Olympics with the presentation of our ice show “Pass the Torch”. Under the artistic guidance of Christy Baltzer, the carnival director, the carnival was a grand, entertaining conclusion to our 75th anniversary celebrations. Over 1500 attendees were entertained by our special guest skaters; the graceful senior ice dance team of Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier and 14 year old skating phenom Roman Sadovsky. Our own club features included: Keiko Marshall, Maysie Poliziani, Alistair Lam and Felicia Bonitatibus and Matthew Korkoian. The Hamilton Skating Club was so proud to showcase the skating skills of all of our skaters, from the littlest pre-schoolers to the most seasoned competitive elites. A truly memorable moment occurred when our own two-time Olympian, Bryce Davison, skated during the opening number to light the torch and officially open the show. A production of this magnitude is only possible with the commitment of many volunteers. I offer a huge “Thank You” to all who helped ensure that “Pass the Torch” was a truly memorable ice show – Freda LeDonne.







Skating Picks How does test day work?

- Test day is organized by the Test Day Chair Marian Wiskar.
- Test Day dates are scheduled months in advance
- Sometimes Test Day times may conflict with school hours. Please plan in advance.
- All evaluators (judges) who are invited to participate in Test Day must be qualified under Skate Canada to judge the test
- Your coach will make the decision if you skater is ready to try the test and will communicate this to the skater and/or parent
- Coaches submit tests 3-4 weeks before Test Day and may pull a skater 8-10 days before the date.
- Test day fees must be paid before the skater takes the test. Test envelopes are handed out by the coaches and are also available in the office.
- Each test costs \$10. All skaters must also pay a \$5 hospitality fee once per test day.
- Out of club skaters must pay an additional \$5 fee
- The results of your skater's test are sent to Skate Canada.
- If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your coach or Marian Wiskar

Awards and Events about the Club:

- Congratulations to Marian Wiskar for being awarded the inaugural Brenda Bradica Spirit Award. Marion has been a tireless and dedicated parent volunteer at the club
- Alistair Lam was awarded the Western Ontario Competitive Skater Athlete Award. Congratulations Alistair!



**Jen Hoadley and Alistair Lam,
WOS AGM**

- Bryce Davison (and Jessica Dube) was inducted into the WOS Hall of Fame at the most recent WOS AGM.
- HSC Coach Lynda Thompson was awarded the national Skate Canada's recreational coach's award of excellence. This will be presented at the National AGM in Quebec City.
- Keiko Marshall was the skater selected to be in the Royal Bank of Canada Olympic Commercial "Your someday is here...." The commercial aired during the Olympic game coverage.

Brief Notes:

- HSC embarked on several fund-raising initiatives this year. Thanks to all members who supported our raffle gift baskets, the used skate and dress sale, and the Elmira chicken sale. Fund-raising money is used to support skater programs such as seminars, simulations, and carnival.
- HSC is updating their policy handbook. Recent policies include: Refund Policy and the Guest Coaching Policy. Policies are available at the HSC office.
- Thank you to all parent and skater volunteers who helped at the various competitions held in the Hallwyt region. The club receives money from the region based on volunteer support.



**Brenda Bradica and Marian
Wiskar**

AGM

Date: Monday, June 9th, 2014 at 7:00pm

Location: Hamilton Skating Club
25 Hester St.
Hamilton, ON, L9A 2N3

Guest Speaker: Piper Gilles and Paul Poirer

Piper and Paul are currently training in hopes of qualifying for the 2018 Winter Olympics, while also attending university. Piper and Paul will share their story of managing school and training and provide parents with strategies and options that allow skaters to train to their full potential while also pursuing post-secondary education.

During the AGM, we also review the clubs finances and recognize our skaters who have achieved Gold test levels and who have qualified for higher level competitions. Please consider joining us at the AGM.

The Hamilton Skating Club is pleased to invite Honorary Members, Gold Test Skaters and HSC 2013 Qualifying Skaters to the Annual General Meeting on June 9th, 2014. We hope you can join us to celebrate our successes this year. Light refreshments will be served.