



Flying Blades Fall Newsletter October, 2008

Welcome back to another skating season. Registration numbers for the Fall of 2008 were on par with the past several years. Our sessions are filling up fast. It promises to be another exciting and fun-filled skating season.

Our coach once again this year is Caroline Frost. Caroline has been with the Club for the past 14 seasons. Many of you may remember the Packet article of September 15th looking back at the past 40 years of local news. She still carries her skates on her shoulders. Our PA Assistant is Cassandra Ingram resuming the role she started 3 seasons ago!

We respectfully ask that you NOT bring your questions and concerns to them during regular skating sessions. Please see them after a session.

EVENING OF CHAMPIONS AT MILE ONE

Even before the Flying Blades season officially started, several of our skaters - Stacey Frost, Grace Rose, Zachary Short, Amber Keats and Jade Soper - participated in the "*Evening of Champions*" show, September 20th at Mile One Center in St. John's. Congratulations skaters: It was a great show!

WEB SITE

This year, we hope to make more use of our web site for posting information and pictures of events. Please ensure that you have signed the permission form as part of your registration form, allowing pictures of your child to be published on our web site (no names will be used to identify individuals in any pictures).

The site offers a lot of useful information as well as links to the Provincial and National Skating Web Sites. If you would like to see something added, please contact one of the executive members with your ideas.

For those of you who have not started using it, the site address is www.flyingblades.110mb.com.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private Lessons are available for all skaters on a first come basis. A sign up sheet will be placed in the Figure Skating dressing room on Wednesday for the lessons which will occur on Sunday and the week following. Please sign up for ONE time slot to allow everyone the opportunity to

avail of the lessons. If on the day of your lesson, Caroline has open slots, please feel free to use them.

Private lessons are NOT part of your registration. The coach will charge you for each session. You are asked to make your payment to the Club and Caroline will then be reimbursed for her time.

FUNDRAISING

At registration, each skater family was asked to pay an amount equal to the fall fundraising amount or to sell World's Finest Chocolates. If you chose to sell the chocolates, remember that all money must be returned by November 15th, 2008. You can give your money to an executive member or if paying by cheque, place it in the Deposit Box found in the skating office. **DO NOT** place money in the deposit box as it may not be checked for a couple of days. Also please do not pass your money to the coach while she is on the ice.

CANTEEN

The Stadium Canteen is run by your Figure Skating Club to supplement skating fees, etc. All profit goes back to the Club! You are encouraged to use the canteen for your purchases when you are there for events!

RECEIPTS FOR INCOME TAX

Please keep your registration receipts as these can be used for income tax purposes. Unfortunately, any receipts for fundraising activities CANNOT be used towards income tax.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Heritage Room at the Stadium on Thursday, October 30th. The date had to be changed because of conflicts with other events. Until a new executive has been elected, the 2008 executive will maintain their duties. You can check out the web site to see the 2008 executive.

We are always looking for new Executive Members. This year, we are especially looking for preschool and canskate coordinators.

GENERAL INFORMATION

What should my child wear?

During their sessions, the skaters are very active and become warm. They also frequently fall on the ice and could become wet. Skaters would be comfortable wearing loose clothing such as sweat pants. They should wear wet pants over a warm pair of tights or thin sweat pants. They should never wear jeans since they become wet easily and will cause the skater to become cold quickly. Skaters will also require a warm sweater or jacket. Bulky clothes tend to limit movement and skaters will find it difficult to complete some of the required moves. Mitts are better than gloves since they do not cause the hands to become cold as quickly. Often, they become wet easily and therefore extra pairs should be brought during skating sessions.

Why wear a helmet?

Skate Canada has a policy that all skaters at the Canskate level, including Level 6 and 7, and below are required to wear helmets. These helmets must be certified for ice skating and be CSA approved. Bicycle helmets and skating bands are not permitted since they do not offer the same protection as a skating helmet.

What are Program Assistants?

Program Assistants are students who have volunteered their time to help younger children learn to skate. They are responsible for helping the coach by teaching the elements for the different levels of Canskate. They do not test the skaters for progression but they do let the coach know when they feel a skater is ready to move to the next level. The Program Assistants participated in a training session. Some of these students have not been involved as a program assistant before this year. If you have a concern, please do not talk to the girls while they are on the ice. They have been told to stay with their group for safety reasons. Bring all concerns to the skating office and ask to speak to an executive member.

Why do I have to participate in Fundraising?

To ensure that the cost of registration remains minimal, all skaters are asked to participate in Fundraising. There will be one fundraising event per session (one in the Fall and one in the Winter). The Fundraising money is used to supplement the registration fee. The Fall fundraiser is a Chocolate bar sale. All skaters have the option of paying the extra fundraising fee instead of selling the bars. Those who decide to sell the bars must have the money back to the Club by Nov. 15th. The Winter fundraiser has not yet been decided. Further information about this will be available during the Winter registration which will be held during the third week of January.

How will I know if a session is cancelled due to weather?

The phone in the Figure Skating office has message manager. Regular updates will be left. If you are wondering about a cancellation, phone 466-7733.

How can I get involved?

We are always looking for volunteers. Some of our divisions do not have contact people. This person would be responsible for ensuring that all concerns for the group are presented to the executive. Also, you would be a liaison to ensure that information applicable to your group gets passed on to the skaters and parents. If you would like to help, please contact an executive member.