

April 4, 2017 eNews and Updates  
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## AB Speed Skating End of Season eNews

Here are some news highlights. Click on [underlined text](#) to access web links.

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### Updates

#### [You are Invited to the Alberta Speed Skating AGM Weekend!](#)

The AB Speed Skating Annual General Meeting Weekend will be held in Calgary on May 6th and 7th at the University of Calgary. The weekend will include updates on AASSA, Club, SSC, and Olympic Oval activities and there will be opportunities to contribute to 2017-2018 planning. We will also celebrate at our Awards Dinner. For full details and registration, go to the [AB Speed Skating web site \(click here\)](#).

- The AGM Weekend will include discussions about AASSA Finances, the High Performance Program, skating development approaches and other topics of interest to the AASSA Community.
- AASSA Award Nominations are due by Friday, April 21st. [Click here for details.](#)
- Accommodations will be based at the Hotel Alma; deadline for block booking is April 17th; details are on the AGM Weekend web page.

### Notices to Membership:

#### 1) AASSA Bylaw Change Proposal

Delegates to the official AGM Meeting (on Sunday, May 7th) will be voting on a proposal to change the AASSA year end from May 31st each year to March 31st each year. There will be opportunities to discuss this bylaw change proposal at the AGM Weekend Saturday sessions.

#### 2) Alberta Speed Skating Fee Changes for 2017-2018

- Club Fees to AASSA will decrease from \$400 to \$300
- Individual fees to AASSA will increase to:
  - Introductory \$10; Competitive \$60; Elite \$90; Associate \$15; Participant \$45
- The Fee Changes can be part of the AGM Weekend Finance discussion, as desired.

### Alberta Speed Skating CAMPS, aimed at T2T and Junior Skaters:

1. Weekend Training Camp, May 27th and 28th, Bowness Park, Calgary.
2. Canmore Summer Camp, July 2nd to 7th,

For information and to Register for the Camps, click here: <http://www.albertaspeedskating.ca/events/camps>

**Welcome Bo Miron** (photo) and congratulations to Coach Brock and Mom Kira! The Miron family have moved to Kelowna and we wish them all the best! Brock has been a great coach in Alberta for many years and AASSA would like to thank him for his wonderful contributions to speed skating in Alberta, from the club to international levels. Some of the highlights include leading AB skaters to multiple Canada Winter Games medals in 2015, developing cross-over skaters to become Canadian team members at World Jr LT; and just being an approachable, skilled coach to many! We look forward to seeing the Miron family again soon!



Edmonton Speed Skating Association is [hiring a Head Coach / Long Track Lead Coach](#); contact ESSA's Coaching Coordinator, [currietammy20@gmail.com](mailto:currietammy20@gmail.com).

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## Spotlight on Clubs

A big thank you and congratulations to all Alberta Clubs for the great work your members did promoting speed skating and healthy lifestyles; having fun!; hosting local, provincial and national meets, clinics and other activities; and contributing to skating events in other Alberta communities, such as the huge provincial RUFast ST meet, the national CACLT competition at Victoria Park (\*\* looking forward to more meets there!) in Edmonton and the exciting, volunteer-heavy ISU ST and LT meets at the Oval!



*Oh those satisfying moments when our skaters try their new skills! S Maunder Photography*

We appreciate your connections on Facebook and other Social Media, and the wonderful photographs and videos documenting the season. Please continue to share your good practices and information with us and others! We hope each club can send

at least one or two participants to the AASSA AGM Weekend on May 6th and 7th and we look forward to meeting with you in Calgary, concluding the 2016-2017 season and moving ahead!

## Spotlight on Alberta Speed Skaters

Congratulations to Katie Saunders of Calgary and Evan James of Stony Plain who represented Canada at the Special Olympics in Austria in March!

- Evan earned a gold medal and Katie earned a silver medal in their 777m short-track races, while James earned another medal, a silver, in the 1000m distance!
- We have some wonderful photos of Katie and Evan in an album on our Facebook page, and by the looks of the photos, these Alberta Speed Skaters had a great time in Austria!



We promised our readers an interview with [Connor Howe and Brooklyn McDougall](#) upon their return to Canada from the World Junior LT Championships in Finland, and the article is available to read on our web site, under ["Skater News."](#) We also have a World Juniors Facebook album for you to enjoy as well.

Congratulations to the Alberta Short Track skaters who earned spots to compete at the last national ranking short-track events: [Senior Selections 2](#) and [Junior Selections 2](#) in Montreal and Trois-Rivières in March.

- There were 3 Alberta Senior Skaters and 12 Junior Skaters at the competitions, the largest ST representation to national qualifying events in recent years. Full results are on the SSC web site.
- Keil Hillis won the 1000m C event at Senior Selections, finishing 13th overall, while Marika Nadal had a tough meet but won the 500m D final; Anneke Pederson improved 10 placements to finish 21st overall.
- Junior Hee Won Son earned a silver medal in the 1500m distance, and was a strong 4th overall, while Abby Young finished 4th in the 1500m and 22nd overall.
- Brendan Yamada finished 10th overall, with Jackson Hunter, 18th, Paul Coderre 25th, and the only first year junior in the top 35 of 60 in the men's division, Matej Pederson finished 26th overall.
- Mathias Bathe, Aaron Cooney, Celina Chabot, Victoria Goplen, Molly Young and Caitlyn Pelkey also qualified to race at this important national ranking event, and gained valuable racing experience, including winning some of the repechage

aces.

Alberta also sent almost 40 athletes from all over Alberta in March to the [Canada West T2T Short Track Championships](#) in Saskatoon!

Highlights:

- Annika Johnston was 1st overall in the T2T-11 category; Cezare Bere 1st, and Sarah Feschuk, Ivy Bao, Preslee Muller, and Brinley Davidson a tight 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th in the T2T-12 category!
- Neithen Thomas was 1st, with Ben Cote and Keegan Dunbar 5th and 6th in the male T2T-14 category.

[RUFast](#) was the final meet of the season for many of our L2T and T2T skaters (and coaches and volunteers!). The Calgary Speed Skating Association hosted more than 250 skaters from the Canadian north, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Montana and other locations (not including BC, which had a conflicting provincial meet that weekend)! [Click here for full RUFast results.](#)

There was lots of Long Track action in March too:

- Almost 20 Alberta Masters Skaters competed well in Fort St. John at the World Masters Long Track Championships - Congratulations Everyone!
  - Jules Chabot, Vaughn Thibault, Bob Irvine, Tammy Currie, Cindy Coneen, Sue Steckle all had top 5 overall finishes, while other skaters achieved many individual successes.
  - We did note that veteran skater and volunteer, Werner Schultz (who was NOT competing in the oldest age category...), had a DQ in one of his events which impacted his overall results; we will have a DQ gift card / consolation prize waiting for Werner at the AGM Weekend...
- Congratulations to Ted-Jan Bloemen for finishing the ISU World Cup season on a high note by winning the Silver Medal in the 5000m, and 2nd in Overall World Cup standings in that event!
- [The Olympic Oval](#) was very busy this winter -- Thank You Oval Staff and Alberta Volunteers!
  - The World Sprint Championships saw two Overall World Champion records set at the oval, and many national records.
  - The final long track event was the Oval Finale with over 300 national and international competitors.
- [speedskatingresults.com](#) has all official Olympic-style long track meet and personal best results.
- [National Long Track Rankings lists](#) will be updated soon and [posted at this SSC link](#)
  - Note: the March 9th ranking list (not final year-end list) has Junior skater Connor Howe in the Senior Top 15 in all distances, while Junior Brooklyn McDougall raced to Senior Top 21 rankings in all distances. It was certainly a great season for our World Junior team members!
- **Provincial Team Skaters:** Congratulations on a great year and thank you for your patience with receiving your suits this year! Please contact Mike Marshall to confirm your order and arrange pick up, if needed.

Contact Mike Marshall, Technical Director, if you have any questions or suggestions: [technicaldirector@aassa.ca](mailto:technicaldirector@aassa.ca).

## Spotlight on Officials and Volunteers

Reminder: There is still time to register for the Level 2 Referee Clinic in Calgary led by Dave Thomson on April 22nd and 23rd. The fee is \$30; contact [info@aassa.ca](mailto:info@aassa.ca).

As our events calendar and the Club notes, above, indicate, it has been a busy season for Alberta Officials and Volunteers! We have the opportunity and challenge of working at introductory through to international-level competitions, and we have, arguably, some of the best officials and volunteers in the country because of that. Our skaters benefit from it, as do our coaches, clubs, provincial organization, and the sport in general.



*New and experienced volunteers from all over! S. Maunder Photography; Edmonton Nov2016*

**THANK YOU to EVERYONE who contributes to Speed Skating in Alberta!** (including our generous friends from outside Alberta who help us out a lot!) We know many people dedicate many hours, their amazing skills, inspirational ideas, hard work, patience and hard-earned money to speed skating, and we believe the efforts are worth it! We hope you do, too.

#### **Upcoming Events and Notable Dates in Alberta:**

##### **April 2017**

- **Friday, April 21st - deadline for AASSA Awards Nominations**
- **Level 2 Referee Clinic, University of Calgary, April 22nd & 23rd**

##### **May 2017:**

- **AASSA AGM Weekend, University of Calgary, May 6th and 7th**
- **T2T and Junior Camp, Bowness Park, Calgary, May 27th & 28th**

##### **July 2017:**

- **Canmore Summer Camp, July 2nd to 7th**

STAY CONNECTED:

