



Alberta Amateur Speed Skating Association (AASSA) News



It has been a busy Autumn and now we are already into December! The editor of AASSA eNews thanks you for your patience and would like to remind readers that we have regular posts on Facebook, Instagram and we also engage in Twitter, so you can catch some news through those channels too, but we will endeavour to increase the circulation frequency of eNews this season too!

And - in relation to the idea of being *busy*: THANK YOU to all of the Volunteers who got the clubs and MAS running this fall, and who are now full-on with training, clinics, planning, fund-raising and competition activities – from local mini-meets to Calgary2026 rallies to CWG prep to World Cups and making awesome outdoor LT ice! Well done everyone, *You Are Awesome!*

Here are some Updates:

The speed skating community mourns the loss of **Patrick Anderson**, a former provincial team and national team member from Medicine Hat and Edmonton. Patrick supported various levels of sport in his professional career and he was a community volunteer. We extend our deep condolences to Patrick's family and friends. [Link here for a fine tribute to Patrick.](#)

Congratulations to **Jessica Gregg**, World Cup and Olympic medallist in Short Track Speed Skating on being inducted into the Calgary Olympic Oval Hall of Champions at the November 2018 ISU ST World Cup, along with Tania Vincent! You'll soon see Jessica and Tania's banners flying from the Oval rafters – an honour for Olympic medallists who have trained for at least one year at the Oval and are now retired. [Click here for more details.](#) Jessica and Mom Kathy Gregg, pictured above (Oval photo)

The Edmonton Speed Skating Club, under the leadership of and with the great efforts of Jules Chabot and Glenn Williams have created some great outdoor **ice at Victoria Park Oval!**

- So – the ESSA Winter LT Classic is going ahead next weekend (Dec. 15th)
- And – AASSA and ESSA are collaborating on another LT Camp on Dec. 16th
- The Winter Classic will include the inaugural Richard Roberts Memorial 5k Race!

[Click here for more information](#)

Speed Skating Canada has been undergoing a lot of changes, as their staffing complement and competitions schedule adjustments reflects. Part of this renewal includes a [Strategic Plan \(link here\)](#)

- SSC has also introduced Short Track Canada Cups, so we'll all need to be clear on whether or not we mean LT or ST when we refer to "Canada Cups"! – p.s. to all the Alberta skaters who competed at the inaugural ST Canada Cup in Laval in November; results on the SSC Competitions page.

The City of Edmonton has created some ice-paths and renewed the Victoria Park Oval in recent years. The City is currently seeking input on the **Edmonton River Valley Ice Strategy**; [click here for more information and can provide your feedback / get involved!](#)

We'd like to give a shout-out to our northern friends that comprise the Nunavut Speed Skating Association, and were awarded the **Nunavut Team of the Year Award** – nice!

Both the City of Grande Prairie and the District of Wood Buffalo are bidding on the **2022 Arctic Games**, which includes speed skating events.

- [Click here for the Grande Prairie venue overview](#)
- [Click here for a news release about the Wood Buffalo bid](#)



Clubs

Please inform your Club Board Members, Parents and other Volunteers about AASSA information resources, including the eNews, the Web Site and our social media channels.

Mike Marshall has renewed the **Badges Program**, with the assistance of several clubs.

- A description of the Badges Program, and a link to the new Badges Earned Database is available on the AASSA web site, through the [Skaters tab \(Resources\)](#) ([link here](#))
- Thank you CSSA and Tanveer Virani!

Pictured here: Calgary-based club skaters volunteering at the ST World Cup in Calgary in November! (Photo: Oval)

The **Alberta L2T and T2T Short Track Personal Bests Database** is also in the Skaters Resources section on the AASSA web site as well

- See AASSA Event Results for L2T/T2T Mass Start LT
- See speedskatingresults.com for official Jr/Sr Olympic-style long track results
- National Short Track results (for ST Canada Cups, Qualifiers and Championships) are available on the SSC web site (National Competitions).

The first **Short Track T2T CanWest Team Alberta Qualifier** results are on the AASSA web site under [Skaters \(Rankings; click here\)](#).

- Alberta will send as many skaters to the Grande Prairie / Peace Wapiti-hosted March 2019 CanWest event; see the AASSA web site for more details.

Membership Database: MAS

- All clubs should now have members registered in the new SSC MAS database.
- All Club Board Members, Coaches, Officials and volunteers should be registered as Associate Members
- The Ichi-Ban Speed Skating Club is still waiting for a few details from ongoing members; please contact Gregg Planert if you are not yet registered. For insurance purposes, the membership detail must include your correct birthdate, in addition to email, mailing and telephone contact information.
- SSC is continuing to enhance MAS, with input from clubs and branches; thank you to those who provided feedback. We'll have more updates soon. The highest priorities include financial and membership reports, and family accounts.
- We will be invoicing Clubs for manual registration fees over the next few weeks.

Thank you to **Alison Jeppesen of Red Deer** who has been leading AB club testing in MAS all along, and has offered to assist SSC and AASSA with MAS enhancement this season!



Officials

AASSA's Director at Large, Rhona Hathaway is co-chairing the **AASSA Officials' Development Committee** along with AASSA Official and Red Deer's super-volunteer, Alison Jeppesen.

- If you have any questions or comments about AASSA Officials' clinics, assignments, recognition, etc., contact director@aassa.ca or info@aassa.ca

(and, no, those are not Rhona's boots pictured above, by Arno Hoogveld in September before a LT mass start race; they belong to another snappy-dressing Alberta Official from Lethbridge...)

We have an array of **officials' information and resources** on the AASSA web site, including the Club reps on the AASSA Officials' Committee, who should be your club's source for Officials information: [click on the Officials tab on the AASSA home page \(via this link\)](#)

Thank you to **Nicole Cooney, Claire Loberg and Michelle Chabot** for hosting a Level 2 Meet Coordinator clinic in Edmonton in September!

Thank you also to **Hugh O'Neill and John Thorpe**, along with Alison Jeppesen and the Red Deer Club for hosting a Level 2 Timers' Clinic in conjunction with the CWG Test Event held in the new Red Deer College Arena in October!

A particularly **hearty thank you to Luc Cote** who somehow managed to get the e-timing system and display working at the new Canada Winter Games ST venue – after many hours of determined effort—and also kept things going on his own at the Oval, in preparation for next week's Canadian Jr ST Championships – your perseverance and talents are appreciated!

Finally – congratulations to Alberta Officials who have been **volunteering as SSC Officials** at national and international events – we are proud of you! (and, beware New Parents – once you get involved, you tend to stay involved.... haha)

- [Click here for SSC Officials' National Assignments](#)



Updates for Athletes

Reminder: Cannabis is a prohibited substance for competitive speed skaters!

- [Click here for more information about the Canadian Anti-Doping Program and a link to a list of Prohibited Substances](#)

Athletes have designed the new Provincial LT and ST suits and most of them have been distributed. If you have questions about the suits, contact info@aassa.ca. There will also be slightly different suits revealed for the CWG! Stay tuned...

Alberta Provincial Team (including Development Team) Athletes may purchase Alberta Team Wear through URStore; contact info@aassa.ca for more information.

Photo: Jessica Conrad heading over to the ice for CanAm racing with her new PT suit.

Events Update:

We list Alberta sanctioned meets through the AASSA web site home page; and we also have a list of events pertinent to Alberta skaters (including national events) on the AASSA Schedule page and we also have a Google Calendar linked to the web site that lists events. We have had a number of meet cancellations and date changes this year, and they are reflected in these resources.



- FYI: Western Elite ST Circuit #3 (Winterfest) has had a date change to: January 18-20 to better accommodate athlete schedules in relation to SSC and other tightly scheduled competitions; registration on the Oval Competitions page.

Photo: ESSA skaters (Neithan Thomas, Victoria Goplen, David Seal and Ben Cote) modelling the new ST PT suit.

2019 Canada Winter Games (Speed Skating: February 16-21, 2019):

- Both Short Track and Long Track events will be held during Week 1 of the 2019 CWG
- Click here for Tickets and Schedule (scroll down the home page to link to the schedule) <https://www.canadagames.ca/2019/>
- Shawna Pearman is coordinating the Long Track event; Maggie Dekking along with Andrew Jenkins are coordinators of the Short Track event – all in

partnership with the Host Society. Thank you to everyone who is working so hard to put on this special event!

- As below, the AB CWG ST Team has been determined; athletes wishing to compete for the LT Team were provided with three qualifying opportunities; the final competition will be LT Canada Cup #3 in Calgary in early January, and the AB CWG LT Team will be announced right after LT CC3.
- Alberta CWG ST and LT Team Rankings are on the AASSA web site. [Click here](#)

Congratulations Athletes!

First of all – to everyone who is putting themselves out there, on the line, and giving it their all – we hope you find satisfaction in the effort, the personal bests and the camaraderie of our sport. Racing is fun!

Here are some special acknowledgements to provincial / national team athletes from AASSA:

- To - **Connor Howe** of Canmore who recently received the Canadian Governor General's Academic Medal for 2017-2018 – awarded to the top achiever at each high school.
- To – **Kaylin Irvine** for helping Team Canada Ladies win a Team Sprint World Cup Bronze Medal last week in Tomakomai, Japan!
- To – BC's **Alison Desmarais** (former Oval skater and Alberta Club Coach), as part of the early success for the young Team Canada ST – who earned her way onto Team Canada's ST World Cup squad and her first WC medal in the relay at World Cup #1 in Calgary!
- To – **Brendan Yamada and Matej Pederson** for ranking #1 and #4 of ST NextGen male athletes at the Canadian Senior ST Championships in September, and by doing so earned a trip to Europe to compete for Team Canada ST NextGen in Heerenveen, Netherlands and in Bormio, Italy in October. AND To – **Caitlin Pelkey** who also competed with Team Canada ST NextGen for the Alta Valtellina Trophy in Italy! These athletes were competing with some of Europe's best junior and senior speed skaters and gained great experience as well as impressive results. [pictured above in Bormio, Italy]
- To – **Marika Nadal** for earning 13th overall at the Canadian ST Championships! Keil Hillis is still recovering from injury; we hope to see him compete in the new year.



...and, Congratulations To – the ST athletes who have earned spots on **Team Alberta Short Track for the 2019 Canada Winter Games**, based on: 1) qualifying for the Canadian Junior ST Championships in Calgary (which is next week, Dec. 14-16); and 2) via the October AB CWG ST Qualifier in Red Deer:

- Brendan Yamada, Matej Pederson, Neithan Thomas, Mathias Bathe, Benjamin Cote; Caitlin Pelkey, Hee Won Son, Cezara Bere, Victoria Goplen and Molly Young -- [Go Team Alberta!](#)

See what's happening on our social sites:

