

Summer eNews and Updates
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Summer eNews & Updates

Hello and Happy Summer everyone! We have been busy getting ready for a great season ahead, including updating the AB Speed Skating web site -- which will be an ongoing process. Check it out regularly and provide us with your feedback about it! Here are some summer highlights for you.

Visit Our Website:
<http://www.albertaspeedskating.ca/>

Updates

Wendy Walker finished her 17 year career with Alberta Speed Skating at the end of July. Wendy played an important role in club liaison, provincial team support, and special events such as the Hokkaido, Japan trip a few years ago. We wish Wendy all the best in her next adventures!

Speed Skate Cellar: As discussed with Clubs and at the AGM, the Speed Skate Cellar operation is winding down. We are pleased to let you know that the Oval has expanded their business in Calgary, and they intend to provide some online equipment ordering services in the near future. We'll keep you posted as we learn more about this new online service.

Club Registrations are or will soon be underway across the province. We hope Club reps had an opportunity to participate in the Summer MMS Webinars. Our new Speed Skating Canada MMS system main contact is AASSA VP Membership, Stephanie Dodyk. Stephanie's email address is: membership@aassa.ca. Let us know if we can be of assistance in this second year of MMS!



In Memorium

Our community was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of skater and coach, Preston Smith, July 7, 2016. Preston will be remembered for his love of life and healthy living, including his enjoyment of and enthusiastic work with the sports of speed skating, skiing, and cycling - as well as his contributions to Winsport.

A long-time Alberta and Canadian speed skating builder and member of the Canadian Speedskating Hall of Fame, Howard Comfort passed away on July 21, 2016 at the age of 93. Howard earned a special award from the Premier for his contributions to AB Speed Skating, he

was a key player in developing the Calgary Olympic Oval, and he travelled to the Sarajevo Olympics as an official. AB Speed Skating is honoured to continue his legacy and wishes the Comfort family sincere condolences on Howard's passing.

The **AB Speed Skating office**, located in *The Link* of the Calgary Olympic Oval, provides office hours by appointment. Use our new email address, info@aassa.ca to contact us.

Spotlight on Summer Camp

The Canmore Camp in early July had good weather and included a lot of fun, developmental activities for young skaters from across the province, and a few more from neighbouring SK. The camp was led by AASSA Technical Director, Mike Marshall, with assistance from Brock Miron, Tamara Oudenaarden, Ryan Hickman, and SK Provincial Coach, Tim Comfort. Amazing sustenance was provided by volunteer chef-Moms Daniela Bere of the Edmonton SSA, and Patricia de Boer of the Canmore club. Check out the great Photo Albums on the [AASSA Facebook page](#).



Spotlight on Alberta Speed Skaters

Following up on their AASSA awards, we would like to congratulate national team members, Sasha Fathoulin for being named Speed Skating Canada's Short Track [Rising Star of the Year](#), and to Ted Jan Bloemen for the [SSC Jeremy Wotherspoon Male LT Skater of the Year](#) in June! Ted Jan was also honoured by winning the [Oscar Mathisen Award](#) for the most outstanding world-wide LT speedskating performance of the season. Ted Jan broke the LT 10,000m world record in November 2015. Only 5 Canadians have been awarded the Oscar Mathisen prize, including fellow-Albertan, Jeremy Wotherspoon, in 2008. Looking forward to cheering you and the rest of the National Teams on this season!

Alberta Provincial Team skaters are busy with their summer training across the province. We are working on enhanced web pages profiling the team members, and providing more resources for them. We look forward to providing an update about the growing Provincial Team in our next eNews. In the meantime, contact Mike Marshall if you have any questions: mikesmarshall@yahoo.com.

Looking for Club Skater News! Send some along to us; photos are great too!

Spotlight on ST World Cup in Calgary

The excitement is rising in anticipation of Alberta and Calgary hosting the world's best at an [ISU Short Track World Cup event on November 4-6, 2016](#). The Oval has new bleachers, the ST ice has been prepped with a blue centre area, and young AB speed skaters will be presenting the medals!

Stay tuned to eNews and the [AB Speed Skating web site](#) for more information about **how your skaters can participate in the World Cup excitement**.

