**President’s Report 2020-2021**

The Chatham Skating Club is a non-profit organization that operates under Skate Canada. Our Club also falls under the jurisdiction of Skate Ontario.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

President – Cheryl Ross

Vice President – Kelly Meredith

Treasurer – Kathy Ashton

Secretary – Heather MacLeod

Past-President – Jennifer Larson-Cochrane

 Directors - Sue Blackburn

 Suham Doey

 Carolynn Gregory

 Krystal Johnson

 Heather Josling

 Rhonda Jubenville-Stallaert

 Charlene Stinson

Coach’s Representative – Sandy MacDougall Weiser

Our Club operated in a limited way from April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was declared by WHO on March 11, 2020 and continued throughout the entire year. It is still ongoing at this time.

Last Spring, our treasurer, Jill Phillips, worked many hours figuring out how to give refunds to families who had pre-registered for Spring sessions and to StarSkate families for the last two weeks of March. This all had to be done manually.

Skating clubs were advised by Skate Canada and Skate Ontario to move as many operations online as possible. Taking this advice, our Club investigated and chose to implement the online registration system, Uplifter. A team of dedicated volunteers worked many hours to learn how to use some of the system’s functionality. This allowed the club to begin online registration for an October 16, 2020 start. It also allowed the Club to issue credits and refunds to skating families when the Ontario government once again locked down the province on December 26, 2020.

The Board made the difficult decision at this time to not hold CanSkate sessions and refunds were issued to those families who had already signed up. We were trying for a January start up.

When the second lockdown ended on February 22, 2021 and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent allowed skaters to return to the ice, Public Health Regions were classified under a variety of colour zones according to COVID-19 numbers in each region. Since numbers could change rapidly, our Club decided to allow skaters to sign up for sessions only one week at a time. Prices were calculated weekly based on the number of skaters allowed on the ice – sometimes only 10 skaters were allowed per session, plus coaches and sometimes up to 25 skaters were allowed, including coaches.

At the end of March, the Club was preparing to offer Spring skating to the StarSkaters when the government of Ontario announced a third lockdown. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent issued a statement that the ice would be removed from all arenas until further notice.

Only one social event was held this year. That was our 2019-2020 Award ceremony which took place outdoors in September. Only one fundraiser was held in the Fall before Christmas, when Spirit Wear was sold.

In the Fall, three Club skaters participated in competitions very successfully. When possible, coaches continued to test Star 1-5 skaters. One Star 6-Diamond Test Day was held by the Club on December 21.

Thanks so much to our dedicated volunteers and coaches. Everyone worked very hard to keep our skaters on the ice as much as possible during this challenging year. The Chatham Skating Club will move forward in the best way possible into a successful future.

This is my last official communication as President and I just want to say that I really appreciate the opportunities that I had to learn new things and make new friends as a Director, Secretary and President of the Board since the 2009-2010 season. I look forward to providing support to the new President and Board as they go forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Ross

President