



In the Loop

KEY DATES

- Fall Skate
Oct 24-26
- Halloween
Skating Week
Oct 26-30
- Simulation Day
#2-Nov 11
- Star 1-3 Event
Dec 6
- World Ice
Skating Day
Dec 14
(All levels)
- Star 6+
Assessment
Day—Dec 12
- Alumni Day
Dec 28
- PA Social
Dec—TBA

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Welcome to *In the Loop*

We're excited to share our new club newsletter — your main source for updates, reminders, and highlights across all Halifax Skating Club programs.

Please read carefully — important details may not be re-sent by email. This is your chance to gather everything you need to know. Our website is a great information resource — please take some time to look around. You'll find everything from equipment guidelines to club policies and other helpful information. It should always be your first point of reference. Each edition of *In the Loop* will be posted on our website under "**Newsletters**" for easy access. We'll share a mid-season update each session (fall, winter, spring) to keep everyone informed while reducing extra emails.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to stay *In the Loop*!



From first steps off the ice... to first glides on the ice... to first seminars and first time under the lights at Scotiabank Centre...

From the Rink

We've had an exciting start to the season and are thrilled to welcome all our new skaters to the ice! There are so many new faces this year, and we hope you're having fun, learning lots, and starting to feel at home at the rink.



The season kicked off with **Program Assistant (PA) training**, where our StarSkate Academy skaters learned how to support our coaches and help younger skaters build confidence. You'll spot them in their blue vests assisting with warm-ups, demonstrating skills, and keeping sessions running smoothly — don't forget to give them a smile or wave!

Our **STARSkate Academy** launched their year with a fantastic seminar led by national and international coach Paul Parkinson, followed by a Simulation Day at the Scotiabank Centre, where skaters performed their programs in a full competition setting. It was inspiring to see so many bring their best to the big ice.

Meanwhile, badges and ribbons are being earned at record speed across our **CanSkate** and learn to skate sessions, and our STARSkaters are preparing for their first competition of the season — Fall Skate, October 24–26 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. We can't wait to see our skaters shine! Families and friends are encouraged to drop by the event to cheer on our athletes and celebrate all the hard work happening on and off the ice.

As we move into the heart of the season, be sure to check the section of this newsletter that applies to your skater — whether it's **CanSkate Connection** (all learn to skate Programs) or **Around the Academy** (Figure Skating Programs) — to find the information you'll need for the weeks ahead.



Team Culture Project

In September, we officially completed our **Team Culture Project** — a season-long initiative designed to define who we are as a club and how we support one another on and off the ice. The project began with a simple question: “*What kind of club do we want to be?*” With guidance from our mental performance consultant, Simon Taylor, our skaters, coaches, and volunteers came together to talk about what matters most — not just in skating, but in how we treat one another, handle challenges, and celebrate success. From those conversations, three words stood out and became the foundation of who we are: **Passion, Inclusion, and Enjoyment** — our **PIE values**.

- **Passion** represents our love for skating. It’s what drives members to show up with energy, try again after a fall, and take pride in each small step forward. Passion reminds us that effort and attitude matter as much as results.
- **Inclusion** reminds us that everyone — no matter their age, level, or background — has a place at Halifax Skating Club. Every skater, coach, and volunteer contributes something valuable to our community, and every voice matters.
- **Enjoyment** is at the heart of everything we do. It’s the laughter during warm-ups, the excitement of learning something new, and the friendships built along the way. When we enjoy being at the rink, confidence and growth naturally follow.

Throughout the season, we will work to bring these values to life in simple, everyday ways. They will be reflected in our Success Boards and on our social media channels, where we celebrate achievements, teamwork, and leadership. You’ll also see them in the support our Program Assistants provide to younger skaters and in the positive, encouraging atmosphere our coaches create every day on the ice. The **Team Culture Project** reminds us that we’re all part of something bigger than a single session or season. It’s about pride in our club, respect for one another, and measuring success not just by results, but by the sense of belonging we build together.

You’ll see PIE in action all season long — in how we skate, connect, and grow together as one club.

Club Values:

Passion

Inclusion

Enjoyment

Our Team Culture

Project defines what it means to be part of Halifax Skating Club — a community where effort, connection, and joy matter as much as results.

HSC Alumni ? You're Invited!

All current and former skaters of HSC and their families are invited for a family skate on

Sunday, December 28 at Centennial Arena.

On-Ice: 12:00–1:30 PM

Refreshments:

1:00–3:00 PM

Reconnect with friends, lace up for a fun skate, and enjoy light refreshments afterward.

\$5 donation in support of **Feed Nova Scotia.**

Register online today!

WELCOME

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PASSION • INCLUSION • ENJOYMENT

We are committed to improving our skills We respect everyone and treat each other with kindness. We focus on having fun, no matter the performance

Together, we are all a piece of the PIE.



Top 3 CanSkate Tips

- 1. Dress Warmly**—Skaters should wear warm clothes that let them move easily. Don't forget **mittens or gloves** and a **CSA-approved hockey helmet** (bike helmets are not allowed). Name tags must be worn on every session—return them at the end of the season
- 2. Good Skates Make a Big Difference**—Skates should fit snugly around the ankle and be sharpened. Avoid plastic or adjustable skates — they are hard to balance in. Make sure they are tied tightly.
- 3. Celebrate Progress and keep it fun!**—Each new skill, ribbon, or badge is exciting! Cheer for your skater — encouragement helps them stay motivated. The goal is to enjoy skating. Smiles and effort matter more than perfection!

Upcoming Events



Halloween Skating Week

Sunday, October 26 – Thursday, October 30

This week we celebrate Halloween on the ice! Skaters can wear fun costumes — but please make sure they are safe for skating (no masks or long pieces). Coaches and Program Assistants will lead special games and activities during class.

World Ice Skating Day

Sunday, December 14 | Centennial Arena | 12:00–6:00 PM

There will be **no** regular lessons this day. All skaters from every level are invited to join our World Ice Skating Day Celebration! It's a fun, free event with skating, performances, and games. More details and registration information will be shared in late November and on page 5 of this newsletter.

Winter Registration Dates

(all times and sessions remain the same as fall sessions)

Returning Members: Tuesday, December 2 – 10:00 AM

Waitlist Members: Friday, December 5—10am

New Members: Monday, December 8—10am

Please use your current skater profile when you register. This keeps all their CanSkate levels and ribbons connected to their name for next season.

Interested in Figure Skating?

Recruitment for our **Junior Academy program** (ages 10 and under) is happening now! Skaters invited to this program should show a keen interest in figure skating and demonstrate a strong work ethic during lessons. To schedule an assessment and see if your skater is ready to take the next step, email halifaxskatingclub@gmail.com. Skaters **age 11 and older** who are interested in figure skating will be placed in our **Teen Bronze Star 1 Group session**.

In Need of Badge Station Attendants!

Be Part of the Fun — Help at the Badge Station!

We're looking for 2–3 friendly volunteers per CanSkate session to help at our Badge Station this season. This role helps our youngest skaters celebrate their success and stay motivated as they move through the CanSkate levels.

Badge Station Attendants fill out badges and certificates right at the rink, so skaters can receive their badges and ribbons the moment they earn them. It's a great way to be part of the excitement at ice level, see how quickly our skaters are improving, and share in those big smile moments when a skater earns a new badge.

You don't need skating experience — just enthusiasm, organization, and a love for helping skaters shine. Join our Badge Station team and make every session a little brighter! Email halifaxskatingclub@gmail.com for more information



Around the Academy

Your inside look at STARSkate sessions, events, and training updates.

Summer WOW Board Winners!

We're catching up from our busy fall and announcing the final week of summer WOW Board winners!

Junior Academy / Foundations: Lexie

EXCEL: Kayla C

Congratulations to both — and thank you to everyone who helped make our summer a success. They both won \$50 gift cards to Indigo!



Upcoming Events

Oct 26–30: Halloween Dress-Up Week! Skaters and PAs can wear safe, skating-friendly costumes all week. (No skating Oct 31.) Prizes will be given throughout the week to participating skaters!

Friday, November 7 – Ice is ON! The rink is available again, and all Friday sessions will run as usual. This update is now posted on the Uplifter parent portal.

Nov 11: Simulation Day #2 at Scotiabank Centre, 12–4 PM. Registration opens Oct 28 — this event fills quickly! We're excited to welcome skaters from our sister club, BSC, to join us.—drop in to watch our skaters perform their solos!

Sunday, December 14 World Ice Skating Day – Details Coming Soon!

We're excited once again to join skaters around the globe in celebrating World Ice Skating Day! Free of charge to all HSC skaters — no matter which day you normally skate! Registration will open by Dec 1st!

Get ready for a full day of fun optional events pulled from the Skate Canada handbook, including:

- Individual and Team Element Challenges
- Creative Improv Events
- Performances by our skaters
- CanSkate Festival Challenge Events. Our Program Assistants will help lead

the CanSkate Festival Challenge activities — and some will even have their first chance to evaluate skaters alongside our coaching team. It's going to be a fantastic day to celebrate all things ice skating!

Good Luck to Our Skaters!

Wishing all Halifax Skating Club skaters (and our Training mates from BSC) competing at **Fall Skate, Rob McCall Memorial**, and the **STAR 1–3 event in December** the very best of luck! Each competition is a chance to learn, grow, and celebrate how far you've come. We're proud of the effort, sportsmanship, and spirit you bring to every event.

Skate with heart and show what it means to be part of Team HSC!

New! Skater Success Boards

We're celebrating progress in *all* its forms this season! After each competition, skaters can sign their achievements to our new **Skater Success Boards** — displayed proudly at the rink for everyone to see.

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|-----------------------------|--|
| GOE Wall of Fame: | Earned a +2 or higher on an element? Sign your name, event, and element |
| Personal Best Board: | Hit a new PB? Add it to the board and share your success! |
| The Firsts Board | Celebrate your milestones — first solo, first gold ribbon, first competition, or even your first time landing a new skill! |

Let's fill these boards with names and moments that remind us how far we've come this season!



*From first assessments .
filled with nerves...*



*...to receiving your
Diamond Pin with pride.*



CANADA



HSC World Ice Skating Day Celebration

Sunday, December 8 | Centennial Arena | 12:00–6:00 PM

We're excited to celebrate World Ice Skating Day with a full afternoon of skating and fun at Centennial Arena! All Halifax Skating Club members are invited to attend free of charge.

There will be **no regular sessions** this day — just special events to mark this worldwide celebration of skating.

What's Happening

CanSkate Festival:

A fun, low-pressure way for skaters to show what they've learned. It's often their *first performance experience* — skating in front of friendly judges, celebrating progress, and building confidence. Skaters are assessed to Skate Canada standards and recognized for their effort and growth.

STARSkate Academy Showcase & Events:

Academy skaters will take part in showcase performances and team-spirit competitions highlighting creativity, teamwork, and skill.

Club Fun:

Coaches and Program Assistants will help host events and serve as judges, and we'll have treats and surprises for skaters throughout the day!

*It's a wonderful chance to come together as a club, celebrate our love of skating,
and enjoy a day on the ice with friends and family.*

Watch for more details and registration info in late November!

**Let's celebrate the
festival of Ice Skating**