

President's Report
2006-2007
Annual General Meeting
Pacers Speed Skating Club of Ottawa
April 23, 2007

Welcome to the Ottawa Pacers' 2006-07 Annual General Meeting. The AGM affords members the opportunity to reflect on another successful year for the Club and to look forward to the upcoming season and beyond. Among the Club's highlights this year are:

- The successful hosting of two short track meets at the Bell Sensplex; including the Provincial Championships this past March. On behalf of the Pacers, I have received many compliments on the organization of this meet -- which is a testament to the many volunteers who made it happen;
- The high profile of speed skating in the community and across Canada, evidenced by strong demand for club membership and the success of our athletes at all competitive levels;
- The short, but sweet, Brewer Park Oval season, despite the less than cooperative weather, again thanks to "The Ice Man" and his many volunteers;
- The pride we felt for the Pacers who qualified for Team Ontario at the Canada Winter Games and for the medals they brought home;
- The dedication and camaraderie of our Masters skaters who trained for and competed at the World Masters Long Track Championships in Calgary;
- The spirit of our many young skaters who strive for PB's every meet or simply to "skate fast, turn left!"

As you can see, "pride" and "spirit" are the operative words for the Pacers -- pride in the accomplishments of our skaters and the spirit of our many volunteers, who together have made the Pacers one of the largest and most successful speed skating clubs in Ontario. While we continue to produce skaters with athletic skill and personal integrity, it is our contingent of experienced and dedicated volunteers that sets us apart. That our volunteers are truly too numerous to mention individually is a testament to the vibrancy and commitment of our community. Many of those volunteers, among them some of the most active, are not themselves skaters or even parents of skaters. Just consider the range of activities that they handle with skill and enthusiasm:

- Coaching and officiating
- Meet organization
- Skater registration and communication
- Maintaining and balancing the club's books
- Fundraising
- Providing and maintaining club equipment
- Creating and maintaining the Brewer Park Oval
- Serving as members of the Executive
- Maintaining our website (www.ottawapacers.ca)

I have been fortunate in my first year as President to work with an executive and membership that holds the best interests of the club and the sport foremost in mind -- a Pacers' club culture that has been handed down over the years through skaters, volunteers and parents. The spirit of cooperation and constructive advancement is our strongest asset, one that must be maintained and fostered. Many of us are parents who seek the best for our skaters, yet we understand this is best realized in a supportive environment in the finest tradition of speed skating.

I look forward to another year of speed, fun and reward. I look forward to another year of teaming up with our cross-town sister club, the Gloucester Concordes, to provide interclub skating, friendly rivalry and meet support. I look forward to seeing all skaters flying around the Brewer Park Oval next winter, so that all can experience the beauty of both speed skating disciplines and advance our goal of a permanent oval in the capital. Lastly, I look forward to seeing the joy on the faces of our skaters as they cross the finish line faster than ever before.

Paul Landry