



# BC Coast Region

# 2022 AGM Reports

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### Chairman's Report

This is the final year of my second two-year term as Chair of the BC Coast Region. That is four years as chair. It has been an honour serving clubs in our Region from Powell River, through the Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky, Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley all the way to Hope and Lillooet, and of course Arctic Edge club in Whitehorse Yukon. In total we have 36 clubs in our region.

The BC Coast Regions serves its clubs, skaters, parents and volunteers in many ways. With help from local clubs, who bid to organize the competitions, we produce two notable competitions, Jingle Blades, and BC Coast Regionals (WinterSkate). We also partner with the BC/YK Section to host Victoria Day Super-series, and well as several other synchro competitions. You will also find BC Coast volunteers at Autumn Leaves when it rotates into the lower mainland, and at SummerSkate.

Of course, my second term was almost totally within the range of the Covid-19 pandemic, so many of our activities were entirely curtailed. We were able to continue holding Zoom "BCCR Town Hall" calls in September, November, February with our member clubs. Also, our board continued to hold monthly zoom calls. We did get to host Jingle Blades in November at North Surrey Arena – it was nice to get out and see everyone and actually "do something" for skating, and I believe skaters, coaches, officials and the BCCR board would all say it a successful competition. Otherwise, we had to cancel all Skater Development activities, Team Leader activities, and Club governance support was very minimal. Test activities are now being addressed by the Section. Other than a few of our members assisting the BC/YK Section in a small number of Section run events, there was not much else for us (as a whole team) to do.

I want to thank our BCCR Board, an excellent team, for persevering through these Covid times, and now that we may now be assuming a more normal set of activities as covid subsides, we are poised for a new year, with a new board.

I'd like specially to send gratitude and thanks to our outgoing our board member Siobhan Philips for her many years of service, somewhere like 10 years with the

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BC Coast Region Board. Siobhan was our mainstay of reliability in our high-test program, faithfully organizing the test committee, sending out details, running the tests with well-chosen officials, and sending test manuals and updates to the wider test and assessment community at our region clubs. Later Siobhan became more involved in Synchro and was a super champion of that sport in our region. Also, Siobhan's special touch could often be found in the coach hospitality rooms at our local competitions, a skill she later utilized at ISU competitions in the VIP lounges. Siobhan is going to be missed on the BCCR board, and we wish her well in her future activities.

Since this is the end of my four year term, I will not seek any new nominations, and will assume the role of past-chair, I am looking forward to the 2022/23 season, we will have a new board with a new chair and many new opportunities as we hope to get back to more normal operations, the ability to collaborate with the hard-working and enthusiastic volunteers throughout our Region.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Gordon

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## **Competition Committee Report**

### **Jingle Blades 2021**

The BC Coast region hosted Jingle Blades 2021 in North Surrey, in partnership with the North Surrey Skating Club. This was our first time hosting an event at this facility and we found that it worked extremely well. Due to COVID-19 concerns at the time, we were only able to hold STAR 1-4 events at this competition, but we still received nearly 500 entries. By all accounts, this competition was a resounding success, and we look forward to holding future events at this facility.

### **STAR 5-GOLD**

We would like to thank the BC/YK section for stepping up and hosting a STAR 5-GOLD event at Scotia Barn, after we were unable to host these events at Jingle Blades.

### **BC Coast Regionals/WinterSkate**

Unfortunately, due to the PHO at the time, this event and all other regional competitions scheduled during Jan/Feb 2022 had to be cancelled.

### **Super Series Victoria Day**

The BC Coast Region will be acting as the LOC for the upcoming Super Series Victoria Day competition, held in Surrey, BC, May 19-22, 2022. We are looking to identify a club that will be able to provide volunteers to work at the competition in exchange for a portion of the competition profits. Please contact Alex Clarke ([alexonice@live.ca](mailto:alexonice@live.ca)) or Ethan Swinburnson ([ethanswin@gmail.com](mailto:ethanswin@gmail.com)) for more information and if you are interested.

### **Future Planning**

Future BCCR Competitions will operate under a new organizational structure. Partner clubs and hosting facilities will be selected by the board, which will take

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on most leadership roles at each event. The club will be required to provide several main contact people as well as a volunteer pool for the duration of the event. This change is in response to feedback received that hosting competitions is daunting and incredibly resource intensive. We hope that this makes working a competition more accessible to clubs in our region.

The BCCR Competition committee is currently working to identify facilities for regular competition hosting, so allow competition forecasting and more effective planning. This will allow for competition hosting in all corners of the region on a regular schedule, to improve equity for all clubs and stakeholders. Stay tuned for future updates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Clarke and Ethan Swinburnson

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### **Data Specialist Report**

With many competitions cancelled or changed in format once again this season, BCCR data specialists adjusted well to the challenges. Seven BCCR DS officiated from home at the remote/virtual competitions throughout the year; three were able to participate in the live BC/YK Synchro competition last month, and five of us attended our live Jingle Blades event last November.

We welcomed one new data specialist to the team - Gabriella Johnson, who will be continuing her training at upcoming competitions. Two DS received promotions this year - Cari Shorrock earned her Level 1, and I received my Level 3. Two data specialists (Sharon Dahl and myself) from BC Coast were assigned to national championships this year. Sharon and I are also participating in a national working group as part of Skate Canada's development of a new national competition scoring system, which is expected to be in place for the next competitive season.

While we appreciated the opportunities provided by virtual competitions for skaters and officials to participate in the sport throughout the past two years, the BCCR data specialist team is very much looking forward to a return to regular live competitions in the coming season.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyse Prendergast

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## **Skater Development Report**

As Covid prevailed for another skating season, the BC Coast Region was unable to provide any skater Development activities in the 2021/22 skating year. As restrictions have opened and we learn to live with the virus, the BC Coast Region anticipates being able to provide opportunities for skater seminars and workshops in the season to come.

Planning for these activities will begin in the near future!

## **Team Leader Report**

Although the BC/YK Section was able to host Sections in Parksville this year, the number of people at the competition was restricted. Unfortunately, this meant that Team Leaders were unable to attend the competition for a second year. It is hopeful that the next Sectional competition will be back to normal and that all the Region Team Leaders can return to supporting our skaters, coaches, and parents at this competition.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Oxland

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### **Assessment Committee Report**

I've had the privilege and pleasure of being on the BCCR Test/Assessment Committee for a decade. In 2012 I was asked to join what was then a very robust and busy Test Committee of dedicated individuals who organized and ran multiple Regional test days every year, oversaw hundreds of Club low test days, and prepared and annually updated and distributed a very thorough and informative test manual. I had never even been a Club Test Chair at that point, so it was a steep learning curve.

The test committee was a springboard to the BCCR Board of Directors and shortly thereafter I joined the Board as a Director at Large and became the liaison person between the Board and the Test Committee. For many, many years I was the "Secretary" aka the Messenger for anything test related - and I'm sure many of you recall the bombardment of emails I used to send.

So much has changed in ten years including an entirely new system of tests - now called Assessments (Star 1-Gold), not to mention a global pandemic for two years which necessitated radical changes to the delivery of Assessment days.

The BCCR held our last Regional Assessment Day in March of 2020 - it was a very small one (a few tests for skaters who would be travelling during March break and therefore unable to participate in the BIG region assessment day scheduled for the following week). Well that BIG Assessment Day, with well over a hundred scheduled tests, was cancelled at the last moment and for many of our BCCR skaters it was at least a year before they were able to test again.

In 2021 the Section and Skate Canada developed a new method of assessing - VIRTUAL! Clubs who had the "technology" (a good videographer and excellent internet connection) were invited to have Assessment days on their home ice. Initially the assessments were conducted by Assessors from back East as the BCYK Section had only a few qualified Assessors. With the changes to the Assessments themselves there was significant retraining for Assessors, and this coupled with the pandemic challenges resulted in the Section (and our Region) losing a number of Assessors.

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I'm delighted to report that things are sliding back into some sort of normalcy now .... Clubs are once again able to conduct their OWN Assessment sessions for Star 6- Gold tests. The Section is facilitating this and it has been outstanding. My hat goes off to Danielle Williams and Haley Adams at the Section Office and to Joanne Nickel from the Judges Committee for their incredible work! Kudos and many thanks to these three individuals for their tireless work. We are still low on qualified Assessors in our Region but hopefully that will change.

Some clubs have recently held LIVE Assessment days while many others have availed themselves of Virtual ones. The virtual assessment days (VADs) are an excellent opportunity for remote Clubs to have access to assessment in a timely and cost effective manner and I suspect that this method of assessing may remain in some way, shape or form. As for our BC Coast Clubs in the lower mainland, it's my hope that they will now be able to have "in club" test days with Assessors for Star 6-Gold -and perhaps the day will come when we will once again have large Regional Assessment Days with many, many tests. Only time will tell.

I'm also very impressed with the Skate Canada resources for Assessment Coordinators. There is extensive information on their website and I encourage all to access it.

I remain encouraged and grateful that many of our BC Coast skaters are getting back to "testing" after such a long hiatus for some. I thank all of those whom I have had the pleasure of working with on the Test/Assessment Committee - and as I leave the BCCR Board of Directors after a long and rewarding tenure, I thank my fellow Board members for their assistance and wish them all the best moving forward.

AND most of all I thank each and every Club Assessment Coordinator for the hard work that you perform. This is such an important aspect of figure skating and you should all be commended. Thank you!

Respectfully Submitted  
Siobhan Philips  
BCCR Test Committee

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### **Synchro Rep Report**

For most of my years on the BCCR Board of Directors I have been the “Synchro Rep” (aka Synchro Cheerleader) - somewhat by default as I was one of the few on the Board (initially) who had experience in the discipline, both as a participant and as a parent.

In my 9 years on the Board I have seen synchro in our Region grow and wane; ebb and flow.... It is my sincere wish that we will see it on the rise moving forward.

Clubs in our Region struggle to fill synchro teams, and yet it is undoubtedly an incredible vehicle to build Club morale, improve skating skills (and field moves and performance), and in many cases keep skaters in our sport longer (often into adulthood; I know skaters in their 60s who continue the sport because of synchro).

Despite our challenges and small numbers, our BC Coast Region (and province) was nonetheless well represented at the recent Synchro National Championships in Calgary with two teams competing in Novice (kudos to Aldergrove and Lower Mainland Synchronized Skating Club) and also the Junior team from LMSSC who made their second appearance at Nationals at that level. Skate Canada also gave LMSSC an International assignment to compete in England in March; but unfortunately it was canceled due to the resurgence of the Omicron variant of Covid.

This past weekend, at the World Championships in Hamilton, I just had the pleasure of seeing two former BCCR skaters compete with their respective new teams (Japan and USA#2). I’m also ecstatic to report that Canada (Les Supremes) won the Gold Medal, and Nexxice finished 4th; one of the best results Canada has enjoyed in decades. And, it is my sincere hope that this gold medal win will be an impetus for Synchro in our Region and our province. Synchro isn’t going away!! In fact, next year the top Junior and Senior Synchro teams will compete in conjunction with the other disciplines at Nationals which will now feature all disciplines of our sport.

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I encourage all Coaches, and Boards to reach out to the Region and explore synchro options. While we realize that ice time in BC (particularly in the lower mainland) is limited and expensive, there are opportunities with dedicated synchro clubs and several clubs who have in-club teams. I would love to see cooperation and collaboration amongst clubs to get synchro on the same level in our Region as it is in other parts of Canada.

I thank my fellow Board members for the support they have shown for Synchro over the years and I sincerely hope that as a Board they will continue to advocate for the sport and facilitate more opportunities for Synchro skaters. Although I won't be on the Board, I will continue to be the best Synchro Cheerleader I can be.

Respectfully Submitted  
Siobhan Philips

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