



THE KITCHENER WATERLOO SKATING CLUB

# Annual Report

2022/23



Photo: Danielle Earl



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# About Our Club

**Philosophy:** to follow a 'skater first' philosophy for decision-making to ensure that the needs of our skaters are the primary consideration.



Motto:  
*Passion lives here'*

2022/23

# Pandemic Recovery Plan

We achieved what we set out to  
accomplish over the last two years!



## Goal 1

Programs – Rebuilt and maintained  
skating programs

## Goal 2

Environment – Created an environment  
that attracts and retains skaters,  
coaches, staff, and volunteers

## Goal 3

Continued as a viable and agile club by  
endeavoring to follow best  
organizational practices



2022/23





## Mission

Inspiring a lifelong passion for excellence through skating

## Vision

Our vision is to be a world-class skating centre for the entire community

2022/23

# Board, Staff & Coaches

## Board of Directors

**Mary Ann Winterhalt**  
President of the Board

**Gordon Robson**  
Vice-President of the Board

**Laszlo Sarkany**  
Secretary

**Karen Van Soelen**  
Coaches' Representative

**Lixin Chen**  
Director

**Liz Christensen**  
Director

**Joy Crockett**  
Director

**Ryan Genier**  
Director

**Norbert Horvat**  
Vice-President of Finance

**Carolyn Fedy**  
Honorary Member

## Athletic Centre Staff

**Phelan Simpson**  
**Dustin Hoffman**  
AC Membership Supervisors

Recreational Coaches, Support  
Coaches, Fitness Instructors and  
KWSC Program Coordinators

## Office Staff

**Debra Brown**  
Executive Director

**Anabelle Langlois-Hay / Pat teBoekhorst**  
Technical Director

**Debbie Weber**  
Financial Administrator

**Rachel Kerswill**  
Communications and Events Manager

**Amy Seeger / Brooke Jacobson**  
Membership Coordinator

**Steven Adcock**  
CanSkate Coordinator

**Emma Heaney / Nicole Machala**  
Co-op Students

## KWSC Base Coaches

**Allie Biederman**  
**Carleigh MacDonald**  
**George Han**  
**Karen DeVito**  
**Melinda Kunhegyi**  
**Michael Farrington**  
**Patty Huschilt**  
**Steven Adcock**  
**Suzy Petrosino**  
**Victoria Bernardo**  
**Tyler Morris**  
**Dianne Rouleau**  
**Paul MacIntosh**  
**Cody Hay**

# Executive Director & President's Report



## 🗨️ Rebounding stronger together, overcoming the pandemic's impact

2022-23 marks the second year of the Club's two year recovery plan as set out by KWSC's Board of Directors in the winter of 2021. This plan was created during a time when the rinks were closed and the staff were applying for grants at every turn. We were focused on keeping coaches working, keeping skaters active - on the ice or off the ice (especially when the rink could not open). Public Health reports continued to change the way we viewed the virus, our safety, and how to participate in sport. We opened the year with a pinch to prove to ourselves that we really were open for skating and leaving the pandemic closures behind. With an increased interest in learning to skate, we began rebuilding our Club.

This past spring was the first spring the Club was open in three years. After the winter Olympics, enrollment increased to numbers higher than the spring before the pandemic.

Competition season kicked off in July with KWSC hosting the first Skate Ontario Sectional Series competition for several skaters here in our Club and those across Canada.

With a grant from the City of Waterloo, the Club took an important step in becoming a more inclusive organization. An adaptive skating program was created to welcome children who require program adaptations due to cognitive or physical challenges. This objective was twofold: create both a program time exclusive for children with special needs, as well as recruit program assistants for skaters who want to be in a typical CanSkate program but need more support. In a few short months, the Club was recognized for its' leadership in this area by Skate Canada as well as a local Inclusive Recreation Committee. An Adaptive CanSkate Coordinator was hired to oversee the program and these new inclusion practices.

In the fall, the SchoolSkate program returned and rebranded as CanSkate@School in accordance with Skate Canada. Almost 400 grade one students from across Waterloo Region learned the basics of skating with our dedicated CanSkate coaches.

The interest in learning to skate continues to rise. Enrollment in Learn to Skate programs exceeded pre-pandemic times. The STARSkate, Competitive and Synchronized skating programs also maintained a solid enrollment.

Events also returned to the roster of regular activities at KWSC. Awards Gala, Summer Camps (both STAR and Power), National Coaches Week, FreeSkate Festival, Skate with Santa, and the Ice Show. The goal of events is to give every group of skaters an opportunity to engage with the community and excel at their own level. With events happening again this year, the number of KWSC volunteers increased from 32 to 175. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time in support of our events and programs.

As an organization that focuses on positive youth development, it was important to foster responsibility amongst skaters. 14 KWSC skaters became CanSkate coaches over the past year. This move from skater to coach is a mirror of our mission to inspire a lifelong passion for excellence through skating.

Pat teBoekhorst, the Club's Technical director for four years retired, and a new Technical Director, Anabelle Langlois-Hay, joined the KWSC team in the fall. Anabelle moved into the Club with her partner Cody Hay. As former Olympians, the pair brings the Club one more step closer to becoming a world-class skating Centre.

The Club renewed Skate Canada's CanPower program with a revised curriculum and KWSC's power coaches were re-certified. Under the leadership of a new Coordinator, the scheduling was modified and enrollment in the power program grew.

The Junior Academy program was revived after the COVID closures and continued to build into the fall and winter. This program is taught in a group format, focusing on the skating skills for the purpose of advancing to STAR/Competitive Development programs.

There was a strong focus this year on the Athletic Centre. Gyms and fitness centres were negatively impacted by the pandemic, and we saw many people purchase their own exercise equipment when these facilities closed. At the same time, the Board and staff team were looking towards our vision of becoming a world-class skating centre. So, in the fall of 2022, KWSC struck up a partnership with The Rotation Room in Thornhill. The Rotation Room (TRR) is an innovative, off-ice training centre where skaters utilize harnesses, bungees and spinners to improve their jumps and spins. The Athletic Centre was revitalized with new equipment and a fresh look in anticipation of opening a Rotation Room in KW in the spring of 2023.

We are incredibly grateful to the office team, coaches, fitness instructors and volunteers for their talent and time. We all work together to live out our motto of "skater first". We celebrate when we see KWSC's skaters improve their skills, encourage each other, and learn from mistakes. This year we all pulled in the same direction and came out larger and stronger than before.

"In skating there's always another jump or another spin variation or another thing to learn." – Gracie Gold, American Figure Skating Champion

The Club's coaches and volunteers have learned so much this year as we rebounded from the pandemic. We will continue to learn as we move through this journey of building a more inclusive club and a fully functioning Rotation Room.

Overall, this was a very busy and successful year for our Club and skaters. We are proud of all we have accomplished together.

Sincerely,

Debra Brown and Mary Ann Winterhalt





# Technical Director's Report



## Building towards a bright future

Since I joined the club in September, I have had the privilege to observe firsthand the incredible work that the KWSC staff does behind the scenes to support all the different events and programs that we offer. I feel so privileged to be a part of such an incredible team, in an organization with such potential, and whose core philosophy of skater first is aligned with my belief and motivation.

Another initiative that had begun by our staff and board of directors before my arrival was the opening of our very own location of The Rotation Room. It took an amazing team of people working collaboratively towards this vision alongside Jonathan Mills, creator of the original rotation room. I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of an organization that has such vision and is willing to invest in new technology for the benefit of the athletes. We are the first training center in Canada and one of the few in the world to have integrated this technology into our athletes' daily training. We are only a few weeks into this new addition, and it truly marks the beginning of a new era of training for KWSC skaters. This equipment will provide our athletes with the opportunity to safely practice higher difficulty jumps and engage in vestibular training using the electric spinner/stationary harness. They will be able to improve their speed of rotation in the air and enhance their spatial awareness. Additionally, these classes will include video reviews of technical key points for each jump, followed by a series of exercises designed to address them. I am so excited to see the benefits of this technology on our athletes.

As we continue to work towards being a world class training centre, we will focus on providing development opportunities for our skaters, coaches, and parents in different ways. This past year our former TD took a cohort of four KWSC developing coaches to Skate Canada's ice summit in Quebec city. The Club also brought in Olympians as well as KWSC Alumni, Kirsten Moore-Towers and partner Michael Marinaro multiple times to inspire and work with our athletes. In preparation for the competitive season, we provided sport psychology sessions facilitated by Dr. Judy Goss, Skate Canada's Mental Coach Advisor for skaters, parents, and coaches on the topic of competition preparedness. We hosted a seminar with world-renowned Olympic coach, Ravi Wallia, including 2 hours of in-class time, specifically for our coaches. Throughout the season, leading into major events, we brought in many international level officials, both judges and technical specialist, to provide feedback and guidance to our skaters and coaches in their preparation for these events.

This past season we had 31 athletes qualify to represent us at the Skate Ontario Provincial Championships, 12 medals and 5 Provincial Champions! 2 Junior Dance teams and 1 Junior Pair team represented us at the Skate Ontario Junior Senior Championships, while 7 Single skaters and 4 Dance teams at the Pre-Novice & Novice Championships. We had 5 entries at Skate Canada Challenge Pre-Novice & Novice in Regina, where I had the pleasure to attend and watch our athletes put their hard work to the test. Arman Sherkat in Pre-Novice men (33rd), in Pre-Novice Dance Lilla Horvat & Bryce Aggerholm (7th) as well as Julia Sheerer & Arman Sherkat (12th), and in Novice Dance Caroline Kravets & Jacob Stark (5th), Mackenzie Lockston & Philip Czarnecki (8th).

Two dance teams represented us at the 2023 Canadian Tire Nationals in Oshawa. Nicole Bolender & Aiden Dotzert (12th), Alisa Korneva & Kieran MacDonald (7th), as well as Aidan Wright (5th) in the Junior Pair event with his partner Jazmine Desrochers (Skate Oakville). We were also represented by 2 Dance teams at the Novice Canadian Championships in Calgary. Caroline Kravets & Jacob Stark (6th), Mackenzie Lockston & Philip Czarnecki (8th). The Pre-Novice Dance team of Lilla Horvat & Bryce Aggerholm were selected to represent Ontario in the Dance event at Canada games in P.E.I.

Covid had the greatest impact on our synchro programs, and we have been working hard to ensure the survival of the Dyncity synchro teams. This past season we had 2 Dyncity teams representing us, a STAR 4 and a Novice team. Unfortunately, we do not have enough interested skaters at this time to continue supporting these levels moving into next season. Nevertheless, many of our Novice team members, who were prepared to transition to Junior, were selected to join various Junior synchro teams throughout the region. We are proud of their achievements and extend our best wishes for their continued success. Notably, two of our KWSC Dyncity alumni had a very successful year on their respective Junior teams this past season. Grace Knox and her team finished 4th at Synchro Nationals and Sloan Stark and her team won Bronze in the same event. We look forward to rebuilding and growing back this discipline within KWSC.

Steven Adcock made us proud by representing us at his first Korean Championships earning a very respectable score of 157.30 in the Senior Pair event with his new partner Hye-Jin Cho (CIA). The team had the honour of being part of team Korea for the unforgettable experience of World Team Trophy where they held their own and earned a team silver medal to finish their first season together.

I look forward to what lies ahead for KWSC in the coming year, where we will continue to strive at creating a positive culture of excellence so that all our athletes have the best training environment to reach their personal goals.

Yours in skating.

Anabelle Langlois-Hay  
KWSC Technical Director



# Competitions & Events

 [Competition Results \(Click Here\)](#)

WATERLOO REGION  
**RECORD**

READERS CHOICE  AWARDS 2022



**Skate Canada  
Patinage Canada**



**Skate Ontario**











# KWSC Programs

Competitive

STARSkate

Synchronized Skating

Introduction to Figure Skating

- Junior Academy
- Group STAR

CanSkate

- Gold Group

CanPowerSkate

Adaptive CanSkate

CanSkate@School

Adult Skating

## Synchronized Skating



Thank you to our sponsors!

**GOLD**




**SILVER**

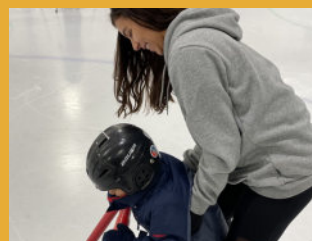




# New Adaptive CanSkate Program

 KWSC is dedicated to providing support to children with diverse physical and cognitive abilities.

The Kitchener Waterloo Skating Club launched our first Adaptive CanSkate Pilot Program in the fall of 2022 with the support of Skate Canada and KidsAbility! This program is designed to support children with varying physical and cognitive abilities in their quest to learn to skate. This program allows children with exceptionalities the opportunity to discover a passion for sport and become a part of a skating community. Our goal is to provide an environment that introduces children to skating, and, if possible, integrate them into our CanSkate group programs in the future. This year we offered Adaptive CanSkate to over 30 skaters and had a total of 16 volunteers assist with the program.



Thank you to KPMG for sponsoring Adaptive CanSkate and CanSkate@School



Skate Canada  
Patinage Canada



# Return of CanSkate@School

KWSC is proud to give back to the community by offering the SkateCanada sanctioned CanSkate@School program, which aims to provide access to children who may otherwise not have the opportunity to learn to skate. We served a total of 380 students on Thursday mornings at CFSC Rink starting from the Fall 2022.

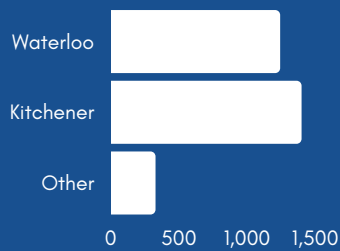


# A Year in Review

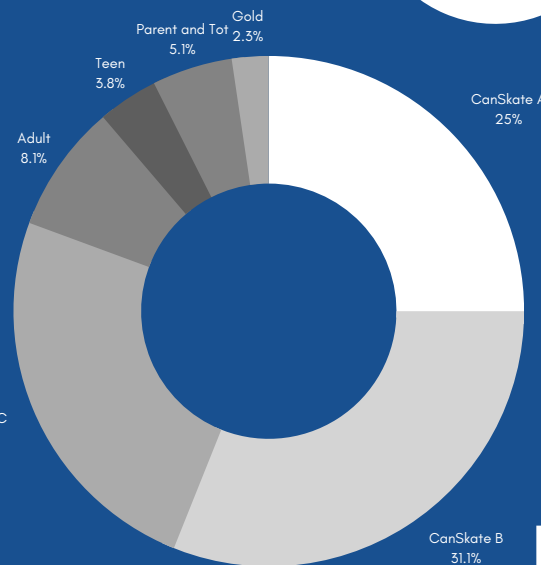
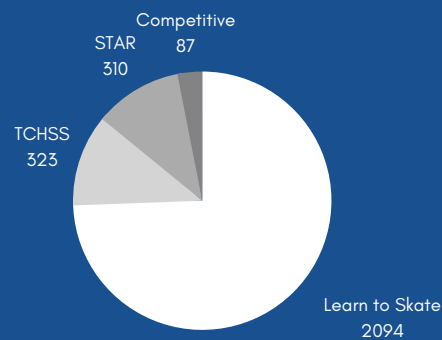


A general profile of our membership and programs from  
April 2022 – March 2023

# of Skaters by City



# of Skaters per Program

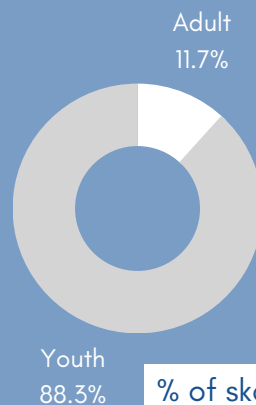


% of Learn to Skate Skaters  
per Program



Average Age  
of KWSC  
Skater

11



% of skaters by age



12

# of  
Gold Tests  
Accomplished



# A Year in Review



A general profile of our membership and programs from  
April 2022 – March 2023

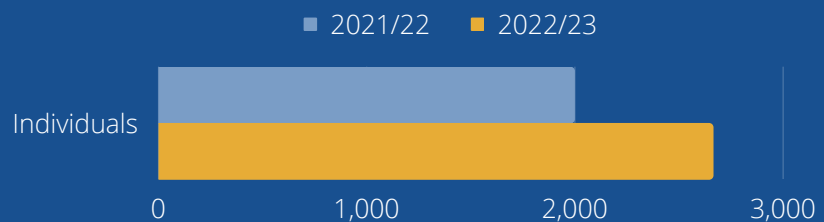
# of Individual Participants

**3305**

3305 participants registered for  
KWSC Programs over

**9863 times**

Year to Year  
Comparison



# of rinks  
where KWSC  
operates

**10**

Average Monthly  
Athletic Centre  
Members

**50**

Total number  
of Coaches

**70**

# KWSC Provincial & National Recognition

## Provincial Champions

Megan Dell / STAR 5 Girls U13  
Boyd Stark / STAR 5 Boys O13  
Kayla Bowman & Logan Bowman / STAR 4-5 Dance  
Jacob Stark / Gold Artistic Women/Men  
Presley Eby & Leon Nehaniv-Dautenhahn / Juvenile Dance

## Nationals

Alisa Korneva & Kieran MacDonald / 7th Junior Dance  
Nicole Bolender & Aiden Dotzert / 12th Novice Dance  
Jasmine Desrochers & Aidan Wright / 5th Junior Pairs  
Caroline Kravets & Jacob Stark / 6th Novice Dance  
Mackenzie Lockston & Philip Czarnecki / 8th Novice Dance

## Adult Champions

Liz Christensen / Adult Gold Freeskate Women Class II  
Patricia Clarke / Adult Bronze Artistic Women Class III  
Liz Christensen / Adult Gold Artistic Women Young Adult & Class I-III

2022/23

# Financial Assistance



KWSC is Committed to Supporting Families Access to Skating Programs

KWSC continued to recognize the financial strain many families were placed under during this period of inflation. Our team worked with the City of Waterloo Fee assistance leisure access program, KidSport, and Jumpstart to ensure families could better navigate the process of accessing financial assistance in order to participate in our programs. Compared to prior years, the demand for funding has doubled, with a **total of 38**. Many of our families enroll multiple skaters per family, and most of these skaters are attending programs at outside rinks located in Kitchener. Jumpstart was our top funding partner this year.

## Summary of funding:

Spring 2022: 9 skaters  
Summer 2022: 7 skaters  
Fall 2022: 19 skaters  
Winter 2023: 3 skaters



So ALL Kids Can Play!



**Jumpstart**

Giving kids a sporting chance.



# Follow us on Social Media!



3.5 STARS from 38 reviews

Leave us a review!



💬 I still remember my first class, where I was too scared as an adult to hop on the ice and now I can skate. Aidan is a great instructor with a great level of patience.  
-Nupoor Singh

**@kwsksatingclub**  
**715 Followers**



**@kwsksatingclub**  
**1774 Followers**  
**5% increase over the year**

💬 I have been so impressed with KWSC. They are organized, consistent and the coaches are beautifully complimentary and interchangeable. My daughter has fallen in love with skating and I credit KWSC with having provided a positive and uplifting platform that kicked that off!  
-Penelope Sisk

💬 We are extremely pleased with the coaching our children have received through the Kitchener-Waterloo Skating Club and the Twin City Hockey Skating School.  
-Kimberly Crackel

**@kwsksatingclub**  
**1463 Followers**  
**26% Increase over the year**





# Sponsors & Partners



**Skate Ontario**



**Toyota**



**Skate Canada  
Patinage Canada**

**2023 Ice Show  
Sponsors & Partners**

**THE KWSC  
TRUST FUND**

**THE  
Rotation  
ROOM**



thank you to the following generous individuals:  
Veronica Austen  
Sarah Eadie  
Mary Jo Fedy

# Thank You!



As a not-for-profit organization, our club relies on the help, hard-work, sacrifices, and enthusiasm of many dedicated volunteers who show up to assist with test days, competitions, Board meetings, special events, CanSkate, and more!

Thank you to all our volunteers for your time and personal contributions. KWSC had over 175 active volunteers this past year, including 36 Program Assistants! That is an increase of 447% from when the pandemic hit.

Each and every one of YOU make a difference to all of our skaters and families!





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#### Website

[www.kwsc.org](http://www.kwsc.org)

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