

Vice-President's Report 2024 – 2025

The 2024 – 2025 season has brought ample growth and change for Rideau Skating Club. The club continues to shine and persevere despite big changes.

Importantly, our staff coaches changed their approach from individual (or small teams) to a team coaching. This means skaters are coached by all of our staff and associate coaches on our Star sessions, in addition to Future Stars and Canskate.

Personally, I'd like to share my experience; I have had the great benefit of working with coaches who I would have otherwise not had the opportunity to work with. I have also seen the benefit of the team approach trickle down to bolster the general sense of community over the past year. I have also seen our junior coaches grow and further develop their professional skills with mentorship from our senior coaches, and as they stepped into leadership roles.

We have welcomed new faces —skaters, coaches, trainers—and said goodbye to some. This year we welcome Katrina Hardy as a CanSkate coach. Katrina came to us from Rideau Lakes Skating Club and has been a great addition to our CanSkate coaching team.

In terms of our off-ice programming, we welcomed Heather Clayton as a new instructor. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, Heather was unable to complete the winter season with us. However, she greatly enjoyed her time with the skaters helping them grow into stronger, faster, and more well-rounded athletes.

We also welcomed Mighty Maestro Fitness to the Rideau Skating Club family in April. Mighty Maestro is an award-winning fitness experience, headed by Jordan and Ray. They have so far brought a sense of fun and excitement to off-ice, which, can otherwise be a chore. We are looking forward to continuing to partner with them to deliver our off-ice programming. There is also room left in the Wednesday evening classes taking place at Fred Barrett for the Spring and Summer seasons.

We also said some big goodbyes this year. Brandi Young, a long-time member of Rideau Skating Club, took the big step in her coaching career and moved to Minto Skating Club. We wish Brandi all the best in this new chapter.

Margo Guerette, our unsung hero behind the club administration email, finally (I saw finally as there have been multiple attempts) retired. Margo has been with Rideau for many years and contributed in many ways, in fact, too many to count. We wish Margo the absolute best in her retirement (and will always be here if she decided to unretire).

This year we are saying goodbye to long-time board member Dan Gray. Dan has played many roles on the Board of Directors and brought a wealth of experience and insight to these roles. His long-time commitment is beyond appreciated and he will be missed!

Also departing from the Board of Directors this year, is Jessica Desrocher. Jessica sat as our secretary this past year. Her organization and insights were (and continue to be) valuable to the club. Jessica will be missed on the board of directors!

Noriko Amaya is stepping down as events coordinator. If you attended any event with the club this year, you would have seen the hard work, attention to detail, and warmth that Noriko poured into all our events. Noriko will be missed on the board of directors!

Finally, our last goodbye includes a welcome. Laura Fromow stepped down from her role as president this past year. Laura brought a passion and commitment to the skating club that was unparalleled. However, do not despair! Laura was hired to take over the club administration role from Margo. Laura continues to be mentored by Margo to learn all the ins and outs of back-end of the skating club and is already doing a fantastic job!

The Rideau Skating Club community will continue to grow and prosper as we enter the new year with direction, consistency in approach, and importantly a focus on the importance of all athletes having fun and developing a life-long love of the sport, or if not, then a healthy lifestyle. As the club forges new partnerships within the community, more opportunities for skaters to grow