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Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.



Skate
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SUCCESS THROUGH SYNERGY:
TRANSFORMING TOGETHER
FOR TOMORROW



2025
AWARDS
RECOGNITION

REGION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

CALGARY REGION

Grayson Burnett
Madison Faupel
Kurtis Che & Stella Mitchell
Felice Tam
Natalie Lindsay
Kami Gelinas
Jinelle St. Cyr

CanSkate Athlete Award
Star Athlete Award
Podium Pathway Athlete Award
Program Assistant Award
Volunteer Award
Volunteer Coach Award
Official Award

CENTRAL REGION

Sky Brock
Reilly Nywening
Chayse Lucas
Stephanie Simms

CanSkate Athlete Award
Star Athlete Award
Program Assistant Award
Volunteer Award

EDMONTON REGION

Presley Hargrove
Kyla Garritano
Elizabeth Harris
Judy Burwash
Al Carver
Amanda Taylor

CanSkate Athlete Award
Star Athlete Award
Program Assistant Award
Volunteer Award
Official Award
Volunteer Coach Award

NORTHEAST REGION

Brody Heber
Morgan Ruttan
Lilianne Ouellet
Annika Gorenjuk

CanSkate Athlete Award
Star Athlete Award
Program Assistant Award
Volunteer Award

NORTHWEST REGION

Ryder Picard
Nova Skoglund
Denae Gaultier
Jennifer Ferguson

CanSkate Athlete Award
Star Athlete Award
Program Assistant Award
Volunteer Award

NWT REGION

Lolah Bourque-Hausmann
Kyla MacDonald-Schwarzenberger
Mya Fraser
Kristy Evans
Kami Harney

CanSkate Athlete Award
Star Athlete Award
Program Assistant Award
Volunteer Award
Volunteer Coach Award

PEACE REGION

Nyah-Rayne Lepps
Brenna Grant
Bella Gach

CanSkate Athlete Award
Star Athlete Award
Program Assistant Award

SOUTH REGION

Jillian Greene
Isabella Mackenzie
Olivia Olivieri
Tanya Whipple

CanSkate Athlete Award
Star Athlete Award
Program Assistant Award
Volunteer Award

LONG SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

25 YEAR COACH

Linda Budinski
Tracey Hammer
Shari Olsen
Cindy Wong-Larson

Clyde Hammer
Donna Horlock
Leona Tompkins

50 YEAR COACH

Leona Boyle
Lynne Koper

25 YEAR OFFICIAL

Sherry Badior



Skate
AB | NT | NU

CLUB & SKATING SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS

20 YEARS

Glacier School of Skating

30 YEARS

Clive FSC
La Crete SC
Wild Rose FSC

35 YEARS

Cremona SC
Rich Valley FSC

45 YEARS

Athabasca SC
Bassano SC
Lake Bonavista FSC
Nampa FSC

50 YEARS

Andrew FSC
Canmore SC
Cardston FSC
Coaldale FSC
Cochrane SC
Cold Lake FSC
Mannville FSC
Sundre FSC
Sylvan Lake FSC

55 YEARS

Alix FSC
Brooks FSC
Federation FSC
Fort Smith FSC
Gleichen FSC
Grimshaw FSC
Hanna FSC
Hay River FSC
Sherwood Park SC
Westlock FSC
Wetaskiwin & District FSC

60 YEARS

Fort Macleod FSC
Innisfail SC
Okotoks SC
Olds FSC
Peace River SC
Pincher Creek SC

65 YEARS

Calalta FSC
Foothills FSC

ATHLETE RECOGNITIONS



KAITLIN SAFINUK & SEAN LOUGH
PRE-NOVICE PAIR
 2025 Skate Canada Trophy, Bronze



STELLA MITCHELL & KURTIS CHE
NOVICE DANCE
 2025 Skate Canada Trophy, Silver



MORIAH VAN'T LAND
LEVEL 1 DIVISION 1 WOMEN
 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Silver

MARILYN CHIDLOW VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Marilyn Chidlow is a native of Ponoka who has been involved in skating volunteerism from the local club level through to the National Board as the Skate Canada President from 2000 to 2006. Marilyn's heart has always been with the grassroots skating as demonstrated by her commitment to the development of the CanSkate Program while she was the National Recreational Skating Chair. The Section has been the beneficiary of Marilyn's talent and commitment for several decades and it is the Section's great honor to have named this award after such a fine individual.

MARILYN CHIDLOW VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Angela Eberhard—Marwayne SC
 Brandy Cox—Sherwood Park SC
 Brooke Wasylishen—Vermilion SC
 Bruce Wallace —Skate Morinville Club
 Cynthia Dunbar—Innisfail SC
 Danielle Ross—North County SC
 Debbie Robillard—Springbank FSC
 Diane Verville—Boyle SC
 Elaine Higdon—Bonnyville SC
 Erin Turnell—Figure 8 SC
 Gina Case—Grimshaw SC
 Heather Rogalski—St. Albert SC
 Hilary Sehn—Lloydminster SC
 Jamie Fuhrman—Carstairs SC
 Jennifer Borgland—Calgary Winter Club
 Jennifer Klein—Camrose SC
 Jessa Addison—Red Deer SC
 Jocelyn Vargas—Beaumont SC
 Jody Jones—Indus FSC
 Jody Sherry—Okotoks SC

Kevin Rodgers—Noralta SC
 Liz Merkley—Wainwright SC
 Lyndsay Smith—Taber FSC
 Mandi Krause—Skate Ponoka
 Marcelle Abou Rjeily—Edmonton Synchronized SC
 Mark Tkacz—Canmore SC
 Michelle Chan—Calalta FSC
 Natasha Kuchirka—Devon SC
 Nicole Bursey—Derrick SC
 Rachel Watson—Whitecourt SC
 Rebecca Wong—Ice Palace FSC
 Shania Stone—Manning FSC
 Shannon Laprise—Bassano SC
 Shauna Cox—St. Paul FSC
 Sher-Lynn Heighington—Grande Prairie SC
 Simone Saeger—Lake Bonavista FSC
 Soba Kaluthota—Southern Alberta SA
 Stehanie Simms—Rocky FSC
 Susan Williamson—Calgary Synchronized SC
 Tiffany Weisbrod—Kitscoty SC

SKATE CANADA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

SECTION PODIUM PATHWAY ATHLETE AWARD



STELLA MITCHELL & KURTIS CHE

Stella and Kurtis had a successful season which culminated in a silver medal in Novice Dance at the 2025 Skate Canada Trophy. Stella and Kurtis are dedicated athletes that were committed to their training and development of their skating. In only a short time together, they along with their coaches, achieved great success. A highlight was this season's outstanding free dance.

SECTION STAR ATHLETE AWARD



BRENNA GARANT

As a dedicated skater, Brenna not only showcases her technical skills and artistic expression on the ice but also demonstrates a strong enthusiasm for continuous improvement. Brenna actively participates in various competitions and events, inspiring her peers and younger skaters alike with her passion and resilience. Her positive attitude and willingness to support fellow athletes reflect the essence of the Star program.

SECTION CANSKATE ATHLETE AWARD



RYDER PICARD

Ryder has the most infectious outgoing personality. He is a strong and motivated skater who applies himself in everything he does. From utilizing and implementing any sort of correction or help he receives from coaches, to being kind and compassionate to his fellow skater, Ryder shows a willingness to learn and improve. On and off the ice, he is a pleasure to be around, always wanting to tell you about the new 'tricks' he has learned at practice or how much he enjoys skating on the outdoor rinks.

SECTION PROGRAM ASSISTANT AWARD



OLIVIA OLIVIERI

Olivia is a vital part of her club's CanSkate and Star 1-3 sessions. She volunteers 5 hours per week and is so happy to be there! She is the first one to take initiative to help set up CanSkate and also takes a leadership role with the younger PAs. Olivia is calm, positive and a kind person to be around. Her expertise is with the Pre-CanSkaters as she has a way of getting them up and moving fast.

ATHLETE RECOGNITIONS



UXIA GONZALEZ-ABRALES

NOVICE WOMEN

Maria Olszewska International Poland, 5th place
Skate Canada Trophy, Bronze



KAIYA RUITER

SENIOR WOMEN

ISU Challenger Kazakhstan, 7th place
ISU Challenger Warsaw Poland, 7th place
ISU Grand Prix Skate Canada, 8th place

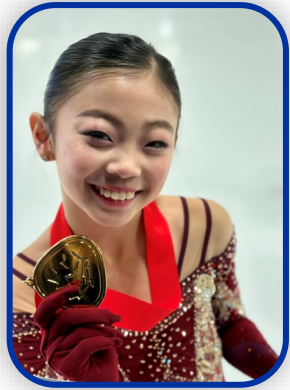


MATTHEW NEWNHAM

SENIOR MEN

ISU Four Continents Championships, 12th place

ATHLETE RECOGNITIONS



LIA CHO

JUNIOR WOMEN

2025 Skate Canada Challenge, Gold
2025 Canadian National Skating Championships, Gold
Triglav Trophy Slovenia, Gold
NextGen Competition Gatineau Quebec, Gold
Cranberry Cup International Boston, Gold
Maria Olszewska International Poland, Gold

ALYSSA ROBINSON & JACOB PORTZ

SENIOR DANCE

2025 Skate Canada Challenge, Silver



PARKER HEIDERICH

JUNIOR MEN

NextGen Competition Gatineau Quebec, 6th place
Trophee Metropole Nice France, Gold

SKATE CANADA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

SECTION VOLUNTEER COACH AWARD

KAMI GELINAS



Kami represents the Foothills FSC with positivity and enthusiasm. She updates and maintains the club's social media and actively participates in club fundraisers. She was selected as the Coach Representative and attends all club meetings and contributes to the success of the club. Kami leads the weekly off ice sessions and encourages the skaters to seek out additional stretching and strengthening. She takes advantage of any opportunity to learn and add to her skills by attending seminars and meetings. Kami goes above and beyond for the club and skaters.

SECTION OFFICIAL AWARD

JINELLE ST. CYR



Jinelle has been a dedicated Judge and Evaluator for the past 14 years. This past season, she was a Tech Rep for several competitions, as well as an Evaluator/Judge for many clubs in the Calgary Region. Jinelle also volunteers her time on the Section Officials Committee. Jinelle trained some student judges at a Star 1-3 event and under her direction, they flourished and were so excited to be part of the action. Jinelle made their student judging experience very positive and these skaters have shown an interest in becoming officials. As a Tech Rep, Jinelle is professional, thorough and detail oriented. She has a very welcoming personality and provides a fun and engaging atmosphere at the competitions she attends.

SECTION VOLUNTEER AWARD

NATALIE LINDSAY



Natalie has an unwavering dedication to figure skating, ensuring club events run smoothly. She stands out as one of the most committed and dependable volunteers. Natalie has taken on numerous leadership roles within Calalta. She has been an integral part of organizing CWI, Star Series, Star 1-3 as well as the annual ice show. Her exceptional organizational skills, reliability and passion for the sport have made her an invaluable asset to the Local Organizing Committee for every competition. Although Natalie takes on any task asked of her and is very busy, she has recently become a Section Official in a Data Specialist role.

SECTION HALL OF FAME

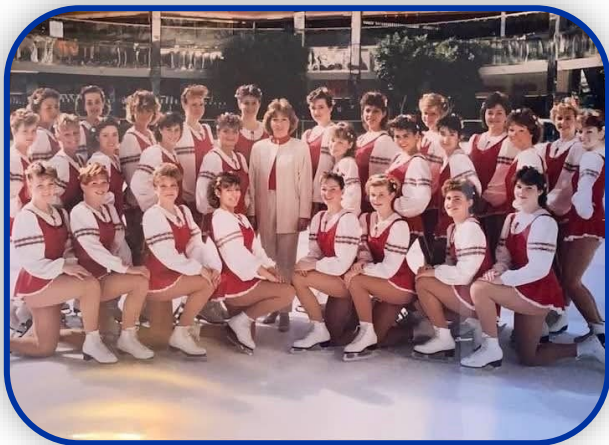
1986 EDMONTON SENIOR PRECISION TEAM

ATHLETE INDUCTEE

The 1986 Edmonton Senior Precision Team remains one of the most iconic and successful synchronized skating teams in the history of Skate AB I NT I NU. Formed in 1983, this pioneering group captured gold at the inaugural Canadian Junior Championships and quickly rose through the ranks — claiming bronze in 1984, silver in 1985, and the national Senior title in 1986. They remain the only team from Western Canada to ever win a Senior national title and the only one west of Ontario to make the National Team.

Under the guidance of coach Sue Cutmore and team leader Pam Chen, the skaters overcame geographic and logistical challenges, with athletes traveling from across Alberta to train. Their performances captivated audiences at major events such as Edmonton Oilers games, the 1983 Universiade, and the opening of the Ice Palace at West Edmonton Mall. After their 1986 championship win, they were selected to perform at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary.

This trailblazing team helped shape the future of synchronized skating in Western Canada and many members went on to become leaders and coaches in the sport. Their legacy is one of excellence, determination, and unforgettable impact.



Athlete Inductees:

Allyson Hodgins
Bonnie Sliwa
Bonnie Steffes
Carla Fry
Carrie Derkatch
Cathy Williams
Cheryl Yuzwenko
Coreen Sprague
Donna Curr
Donna Harrop
Dorene Kindrachuk
Gillian Davidge
Jane Davis
Janice Nichols
Joanne MacLean
Karen Jamieson
Karen Steffes
Karin Thomas
Kim Chen
Kristy Croy
Lisa Fullerton
Lisa Kent
Marsha Thomas
Nicole Allard
Patti-Lynn Harasym
Sharon Marchand
Tanis Fullerton
Tracey Klingspon

NATIONAL AWARDS

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

TAMMY FINNERTY



As a Director on the Section Board since 2019, Tammy provides her insight as a skating parent, club board president and volunteer who is passionate about the sport. She dedicates countless hours to assisting with the finances and reviewing documents, policies and processes to move the organization forward. Tammy is often one of the first people to raise her hand to take on a task. She is very open to other perspectives and is always there to support and listen. Tammy is also the 2025 recipient of the Community Building Block Award, which is voted on by Sturgeon County's Youth Leadership group. Tammy served as President of the Gibbons SC for an incredible 10 years, where she provided not just leadership but also mentorship, supporting and encouraging young skaters.

NATIONAL EVENT VOLUNTEER AWARD

CINDY MUELLER

Cindy not only volunteers at National/International events, she has volunteered at the local skating events in the AB I NT I NU Section for the past 20 years. She has chaired or been on the Local Organizing Committee for local events such as Sectionals, Wild Rose Invitational and local competitions hosted by her club. Cindy also works full time but always is able to find time to assist at these events. At Skate Canada Trophy, she was the Volunteer Recruitment Director and also ended up covering for the Chair of the event due to an illness. Cindy's contributions and teamwork have been outstanding at local and national/international events. She has a passion for figure skating and loves to make a difference in the sport through volunteering.



NATIONAL CLUB AWARD

CANMORE SKATING CLUB



The Canmore SC has been supporting skating in their community for the past 50 years. The club has a wonderful group of volunteers with a wide variety of skills to support the club. Some of the volunteers have expertise with social media and graphic design and they use that expertise to help celebrate the club and skaters. The club also focuses on building relationships within the community, and this can be seen through the community newspaper where stories and highlights of the club are often featured. The Canmore SC goes above and beyond to welcome every skater, coach, and member to the club. The club enjoys celebrating the achievements of all their members, which helps to contribute to a positive, fun, and safe skating environment.

SECTION AWARDS & BURSARIES

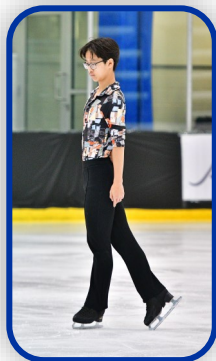
PAT FISCHER AWARD



The Pat Fischer Award is in the memory of Pat's dedication as a volunteer and official. An invaluable member of the figure skating community in Alberta, Pat officiated at numerous test days and competitions each year. She achieved Gold Evaluator and Junior Competitive Singles status and was a respected judge and mentor. Pat also volunteered as a Section accountant and technical representative for competitions. She was President and Past-President of Calalta FSC and was a member of the Section Board of Directors as Officials Coordinating Committee Chair.

JUSTIN CHEUNG

The recipient of the Pat Fischer Award is Justin Cheung. He was the highest placing Section skater in the Pre-Novice Men category at the 2025 Skate Canada Trophy.



ADAPTIVE SKATER AWARD

MAXTON HAYNES

Maxton is in his second year of CanSkate. He started as a nervous young skater who has a limb difference. He has conquered his original trepidations and has developed into an enthusiastic and now speedy young skater. His sense of humor and his care for those skating around him makes him a joy to teach. He has gone from needing 1:1 assistance to being able to handle skating groups and classes on his own and excelling the 'Balance' stages of CanSkate, reminding all those around him, that skating is an activity for everyone and one that everyone can excel in if they give it their all!



SPIRIT & PASSION OF SKATING AWARD

EMILY JOHNSTON

Emily demonstrates the qualities of the Spirit and Passion for Skating Award in multiple aspects of her life both on and off the ice. She is committed to her own skating and consistently works towards achieving her skating assessments. Emily successfully passed her Gold Skills and Gold Dances after recovering from an ankle injury. She has also put in countless hours of volunteer time by helping organize two clubs' year end showcases.



SECTION HALL OF FAME

SUE CUTMORE

PROFESSIONAL INDUCTEE (POSTHUMOUS)

Sue Cutmore was a visionary pioneer of precision—now known as synchronized—skating in Alberta. In 1977, she founded the province's first junior precision team at Gateway Figure Skating Club and went on to coach the nationally renowned 1986 Edmonton Senior Precision Team, building it over nine years into a two-time national champion.

With a background in singles and pairs, Sue quickly became an expert in the emerging discipline of synchro, crafting seamless, theme-based programs long before they became standard. Her choreography, teaching precision, and leadership inspired countless skaters and coaches across Canada and internationally.

Beyond coaching, Sue promoted the sport through seminars in Ontario, the U.S., and Australia, and contributed her expertise as a TV commentator alongside Canadian skating legends. Her passion, professionalism, and innovation left an enduring mark on synchronized skating.



PAM CHEN

BUILDER INDUCTEE

Pam Chen contributed to the development and advancement of synchronized skating in Alberta and across Canada. As a founding member and president of the Edmonton Synchronized Skating Club (formerly Edmonton Precision Skating Club), Pam was instrumental in bringing synchronized skating to prominence at a time when the sport was still unknown in much of the country.

From 1978 to 1990, Pam served as a devoted team manager, handling every aspect of team operations—from booking ice and travel to organizing fundraisers and even sewing costumes. She authored Skate Canada's official chapter on *How to Manage a Team*, and her expertise led to her involvement in major events at every level, including as Chair of the Canadian Synchronized Skating Championships, Technical Director for the Four Continents Cup, and On-Ice Activities Lead for the 1996 World Figure Skating Championships in Edmonton.

Pam's visionary leadership helped expand synchronized skating opportunities across Alberta. She founded multiple successful teams—from elite Senior and Masters teams to Novice and Adult teams like the "Rockerettes"—and ensured each was equipped to compete and thrive. Her commitment also led to the ESSC becoming one of the first synchro-only clubs in Canada to gain full Skate Canada membership.

Respected nationally for her expertise and admired locally for her mentorship and generosity, Pam Chen's influence has shaped thousands of skating journeys and laid the foundation for the sport's continued success.



ALBERTA FIGURE SKATING FOUNDATION



The Alberta Figure Skating Foundation is committed to recognizing the achievements of dedicated skaters at all levels. Since 1975, the Alberta Figure Skating Foundation has been supporting figure skaters and promoting their development through scholarships, sponsorship and awards. The Alberta Figure Skating Foundation relies solely on donations, volunteer fundraising efforts and memberships to fund all of its programs, competitions and events.

For more information on the Alberta Figure Skating Foundation or to become a member, please visit:

www.albertafigureskatingfoundation.ca

TRIPLE GOLD ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

Melanie Cheng, Federation SC
Kaylee Dusterhoft, Drayton Valley SC
Christopher Hammer, Fliteway FSC
Claira Sinclair, Innisfail SC
Melena Stevens, Innisfail SC

QUAD GOLD ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

Grace Doren, Ice Edge SC	Kayla Poon, Derrick SC
Jada Dueck, Okotoks SC	Ava Sporidis, Fliteway FSC
Emma Liew, Lake Bonavista FSC	Nathalie Yonemori, Glencoe Club
Elleah Maurer, Derrick SC	Victoria Yonemori, Glencoe Club
Vanessa Miskie, Marwayne SC	Sadie Sholter, Extreme Edge SC
Kendra Pardell, Norlight FSC	

SECTION AWARDS & BURSARIES

COACH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

CHARLSEY WHITEMORE



Charlsey is a huge asset to the Carstairs Skating Club and is always advocating to enhance the programming. She lives and works 45 minutes away, has a full time job, coaches at another club as well as being at the Carstairs arena four days a week. The skaters look to her for guidance both on and off the ice. She is a mentor to the skaters and to the young coaches that have been added to the coaching team. As the Club's Director of StarSkate, she enjoys working and collaborating with the coaching team to create a positive and fun environment for the skaters and coaches. This season the club started a new Synchro team which was exciting for the skaters and coaches.

BARBARA GRAHAM AWARD

The Barbara Graham Award is named in memory of Barbara Graham, one of Skate Canada's Hall of Fame members and a Canadian skating legend. A former Canadian Junior Pairs Champion and world level judge, Barbara was Technical Director for the then Canadian Figure Skating Association (CFSA) from 1972 to 1991. Her great love and passion for figure skating was supplemented by her outstanding technical knowledge and ability to envision, develop and establish programming to support the progression of the sport. Following her retirement from the CFSA, Barbara traveled overseas and was State Coaching Director for the Ice Skating Association of Queensland, Australia. She later returned to Canada and settled in Edmonton where she was the Skating Development Specialist for the Section.



KAITLIN SAFINUK & SEAN LOUGH

The recipients of the Barbara Graham Award are Kaitlin Safinuk and Sean Lough. They were the highest placing pair at a national competition, with the intention of competing the following season.

SECTION AWARDS & BURSARIES

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SKATER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



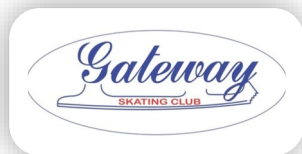
The Special Olympics Skater Achievement Award recognizes the dedication and achievements of Special Olympics skaters within Skate AB | NT | NU. The recipient is selected for their commitment, passion and spirit.



KATELYN BATAILLE

Katelyn started skating with the Special Olympic program during the 2023-2024 season. She is very enthusiastic about her skating and has expressed interest in competing locally, nationally and someday hoping to represent Canada on the international scale. Her improvement is steady, her willingness to learn new skills is unshakeable and her smile never stops. She is polite, respectful and appreciative of those helping her learn and grow.

GATEWAY SKATING CLUB POST-SECONDARY BURSARY



In honor of their 50th anniversary in 2014, the Gateway Skating Club introduced the Gateway Skating Club Post-Secondary Bursary. This Bursary encourages skaters to continue competing while pursuing post-secondary education.

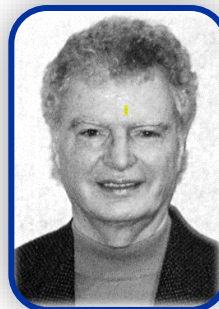
MATTHEW NEWNHAM

The recipient of the Gateway Skating Club Post-Secondary Bursary is Matthew Newnham. Matthew is attending the University of Alberta working towards a Bachelor of Science Pharmacology.



ALBERTA FIGURE SKATING FOUNDATION

DENNIS MCFARLANE AWARD



This award is in memory of Dennis McFarlane. A former National competitor in three disciplines, Dennis began judging when he was a teenager. He reached the highest level recognized by the International Skating Union when he achieved World and Olympic Judge and Referee status in singles, pairs and ice dance. He was one of only a few judges in Canada to have held ISU Referee status in all disciplines at the same time.

One of his most exciting judging experiences was being on the panel when Elizabeth Manley won the silver medal at the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympic Games. Prior to his passing in 2011, he received Skate Canada Honorary Official status and celebrated 60 years of officiating.

VICTORIA YONEMORI

The recipient of the Dennis McFarlane Award is Victoria Yonemori. Victoria was the highest placing Section skater in the Pre-Novice Women category at the 2025 Skate Canada Challenge.



PAT SPRAGUE AWARD



This award is in memory of Pat Sprague, a long-time figure skating organizer and volunteer. Pat was a dedicated mother of two skaters who was very active in the figure skating community.

For 20 years she acted as Chair of the Wild Rose Figure Skating Competition. Those years of dedicated volunteer work were a contributing factor to the success of the event. She was also a Board member and Past Chair of the Alberta Figure Skating Foundation and was known as a wonderful volunteer with a respect for all aspects of the sport.

BLACK GOLD SENIOR ELITE 12

The recipient of the Pat Sprague Award is Black Gold Senior Elite 12. They were the highest placing Section team at the 2025 Canadian National Skating Championships.



SECTION AWARDS & BURSARIES

BARBARA GRAHAM INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Barbara was involved in all aspects of High Performance skating. She worked with local to international skaters in achieving their dreams. The Barbara Graham International Award is given to an athlete or team who has reached greatness at the Provincial and National level and is focused on achieving excellence at the International level. The athlete or athletes represent the best in sports, and are role models for all skaters.

MATTHEW NEWNHAM

The recipient of the Barbara Graham International Award is Matthew Newnham. Matthew has competed in a multitude of Junior and Senior National and International events over the years. This season he competed at the Canadian National Championships placing 6th and ISU Four Continents where he achieved his personal best score in both events and season's best score in his short program, placing 12th overall. Matthew's achievement also includes winning Sectionals at every level, Pre-Juvenile to Senior Men. He has a very strong work ethic and strives for perfection. His determination can be motivating to other skaters to see what can be achieved through hard work and commitment.



SECTIONAL LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

The Sectional Legacy Scholarship is supported by the Skate AB | NT | NU Endowment Fund. The scholarship is provided to an athlete/team who has achieved success over several competitive seasons. This athlete/team, through their body of work, demonstrates a dedication to the sport, works hard to perfect their skill and has represented their club proudly within the Section.

LIA CHO

The recipient of the Sectional Legacy Scholarship Award is Lia Cho. Lia won every competition she entered including Cranberry Cup, NextGen Competition, Skate AB | NT | NU Sectionals, Skate Canada Challenge, the Canadian National Championships and the Maria Olszewska Memorial Trophy in Poland. At the Canadian Championships, she won with a record breaking score and now currently has the Canadian Novice and Junior highest point totals. On the World level, Lia holds the second highest score ever in Advanced Novice.



SECTION AWARDS & BURSARIES

JOHN VIPOND OFFICIAL'S SCHOLARSHIP

John Vipond was an active volunteer and official in our Section. He mentored many officials, served on his local Club Board, and was the first Chair of the Alberta Section Board. He was a man who believed wholeheartedly in figure skating and everything it has to offer. He encouraged life-long participation in skating through officiating, and that was invaluable in the development of new officials. The John Vipond Official's Scholarship is awarded to an official who is striving to become an accomplished official. While on their pursuit of reaching a higher level of officiating, the recipient must also be attending a post-secondary institution.

SIERRA NA

The recipient of the John Vipond Official's Award is Sierra Na. Sierra is currently in her first year at Western University in Business Management and Organizational Studies. Her personal figure skating journey has been incredibly enriching and she has continued to skate on Western's Varsity Figure Skating team. She was motivated to become an official and is an Evaluator in Dance and Freeskate.



SYNCHRONIZED SKATER LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Synchronized Skater Leadership Award is presented to a synchronized skater who has demonstrated determination and commitment to the sport of synchronized skating. Recipients of this award display passion for the sport, personal skill development and consistently contribute to the culture and/or success of the team(s).

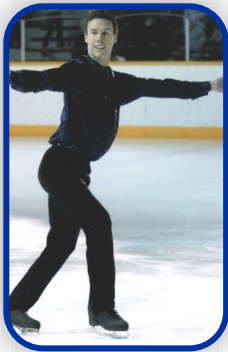
ALYRRA LINDSAY

Alyrra is very committed to Black Gold Senior Elite 12 team and to skating in general. She is very supportive of her whole team. Alyrra tries really hard to make a connection with everyone. She is very empathetic and gravitates to team members when they are having a bad day to help support them. She loves to watch millions of synchro teams skate to try and find new moves, exits, entries to then try out at practices. She is always willing to try new moves and is game for anything.



SECTION AWARDS & BURSARIES

JESSE SMITH MEMORIAL AWARD



The Jesse Smith Memorial Award was created by the Fort Macleod FSC and Jesse's family in memory of him. Jesse spent his entire life pursuing his passion and love for skating. He achieved his dream of competing at the senior level and upon his retirement from competitive skating, Jesse toured professionally with Disney on Ice. Being a perfectionist, he mastered every piece of music that he played on the piano. Watching Jesse skate, his appreciation of music was evident. Jesse is remembered as being humble, determined, passionate, courageous and his philosophy of life was "Discover it, Live it". Jesse lost his battle with cancer on November 7, 2013. The Lethbridge SC continues to honor and remember him through this award.

ZHENXUAN (JASON) ZHANG

The recipient of the Jesse Smith Memorial Award is Jason Zhang. Jason was the Gold medalist of the Juvenile U10 at the 2025 Skate AB I NT I NU Sectional Championships.



WINNIE SILVERTHORNE AWARD



This award is named in the memory of Winnie Silverthorne, one of Alberta's great figure skating coaches. Born in England, Winnie was a former pairs skater with her brother Dennis. The Silverthornes placed fourth at the ISU World Championships and fifth at the 1948 Olympics. In 1950, Winnie moved to Ontario, Canada and became a figure skating coach. She later moved to Calgary where she coached at the Glencoe Club followed by the Calgary Winter Club. Her longtime student, the late Brian Pockar, was a three-time Canadian Men's Champion and 1982 ISU World Championship bronze medalist.

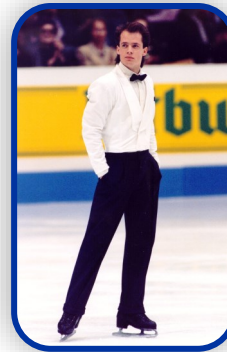
LIA CHO

The recipient of the Winnie Silverthorne Award is Lia Cho. Lia went undefeated in the seven competitions she entered in the 2024-2025 season.



SECTION AWARDS & BURSARIES

KURT BROWNING AWARD



Nicknamed the 'Kid from Caroline', Alberta's Kurt Browning revolutionized the sport of figure skating with his unique combination of strong, yet graceful jumps, creativity and charismatic appeal. In 1988, he entered the record books as the first athlete to complete a quadruple jump in a World's competition, forever changing the face of men's figure skating.

One of Canada's greatest male skaters, Browning captured four ISU World Championship titles. His unparalleled success and style earned him legions of fans around the world and many honors, including the prestigious Order of Canada. Joining the professional ranks in 1994, he continues to grace the ice with a presence like no other.

LIA CHO

The recipient of the Kurt Browning Award is Lio Cho. Lia was the highest placing Section skater in the Junior Women category at the 2025 Canadian National Skating Championships bringing home the gold medal in record breaking fashion.



BRIAN POCKAR AWARD



A native Calgarian, Brian Pockar won the Canadian men's figure skating title three times culminating with a bronze medal at the ISU World Championships in 1982. His success as an amateur carried into the professional ranks where he won events such as the prestigious World Professional Championships. Off the ice, Brian provided commentary for CTV Sports and became a respected figure skating analyst. His contributions were also felt in his numerous volunteer roles, including his participation as a member of the Advisory Committee for the 1988 Calgary Olympic Games Organizing Committee.

TYSON POON

The recipient of the Brian Pockar Award is Tyson Poon. Tyson was the Gold medalist of the Juvenile U14 at the 2025 Skate AB I NT I NU Sectional Championships.



SECTION AWARDS & BURSARIES

SHANTELL HALE AWARDS

Shantell Hale was born in 1978 and started her skating career with the Strathcona Figure Skating Club. She had big dreams, a bubbly personality and always a friendly smile and greeting.

When she passed away, Shantell was on the Alberta Figure Skating Team and was one of the top junior ladies in the Section. Skating was her life, her dream, her passion - everything she did centered around skating.

Shantell will always be remembered for the beautiful, extraordinary young lady she had become and this award keeps her dreams alive.



MCKENNA FERGUSON



NUTSA TCHIBOSHVILI

The recipients of the Shantell Hale Award are McKenna Ferguson, Juvenile U12 and Nutsa Tchiboshvili, Juvenile U14. These recipients were the Gold medalists in their respective categories at the 2025 Skate AB I NT I NU Sectional Championships.

CHAIR'S AWARD

SCOTT DAVIS

Every year as part of the Section's Awards Program, the Section Chair has the honor to select a recipient for the Chair's Award. The idea behind this award is to recognize someone who created a lasting memory, has reached an outstanding accomplishment, or has left an impression for the season on the Chair. This award may be given to an athlete, coach, volunteer, staff, or any member of the Section.

The 2025 Chair's Award recipient is Scott Davis, in recognition of his consistent development of great athletes.



SECTION AWARDS & BURSARIES

SUE CUTMORE MEMORIAL SPIRIT AWARD

Sue Cutmore passed away in August 2020, and it was the wish of her family to create an annual award for skaters to honor the 40 years that she dedicated to the sport of figure skating.

Sue was a successful pairs skating competitor at the national level. She coached for over 25 years at the Calgary Glencoe Club, and Edmonton's Royal Glenora and Ice Palace Figure Skating Clubs. She guided skaters all the way to the Canadian Championships.



In the late 1970's, Sue formed the first synchronized skating teams in Alberta, and while she was predominantly a Singles and Pairs coach, she had a natural knack for synchro. She founded the Edmonton Precision Skating Club in 1979, which under her exceptional direction went on to win many national titles. Sue was sought after to coach seminars across Canada, the US, and even Australia.

In 2004, Sue joined the Section Office as the Coaching & Officials Development Coordinator. She then took on the role of Skater Development & Talent ID Advisor, and her title changed to Manager, Athlete Development. She worked in that role until 2007, and in that time countless skaters were the beneficiary of Sue's guidance, expertise, and mentorship.



ISABELLE EASTMAN



RIQING CONG

The recipients of the Sue Cutmore Memorial Spirit Award are Isabelle Eastman, Star 5 U10 and Riqing Cong, Star 5 U13. These recipients were the Gold medalists in their respective categories at the 2025 Skate AB I NT I NU StarSkate Championships.