



## Skate Ontario Introduces the 2015 Canada Winter Games Team

Skate Ontario is pleased to introduce the members of the 2015 Canada Winter Games Figure Skating Team. This team brings great potential to Team Ontario and is looking forward to carrying on the tradition of strong performances at Canada Winter Games. These athletes represent the highest level of skating in the Province; and, in addition to their enthusiasm are bringing impressive results from recent provincial and national level competitions. We are very proud of the strong team of athletes and coaches and wish them all the best as they compete at the 2015 Canada Winter Games which will be held in Prince George, British Columbia, from February 13<sup>th</sup> to March 1st, 2015.

Competing in the Pre Novice Men's event will be 10 year old Stephen Gogolev from Toronto. Stephen represents the Toronto Cricket and Skating Club and is coached by Brian Orser and Lee Barkell. Stephen won the Pre-Novice Men's event at the 2015 Skate Canada Central Ontario Sectionals, and he also won the Pre-Novice Men's title at the 2015 Skate Canada Challenge event. Stephen also holds the current Canadian Pre-Novice Men's record.

Natalie Walker will represent Ontario in the Pre-Novice Women's event. Natalie is 11 years old and lives in Oakville. Natalie trains at the Milton Skating Club with her coaches Nancy McDonnell-Lemaire, Pavol Porac, Ann Fisher & Paul Fisher. Natalie has had a very successful season with winning a bronze medal at the 2015 Skate Canada Central Ontario Sectionals and the silver medal at the 2015 Skate Canada Challenge in Pierrefonds, Quebec.

Hannah Dawson and Daniel Villeneuve will be representing Ontario in the Pre-Novice Pair's event. Hannah is from Hawkesbury and Daniel is from Sherbrooke, Quebec. The team trains with coaches Bruno Marcotte and Ian Connolly and represents the Hawkesbury Figure Skating Club. They are the 2015 Skate Canada Eastern Ontario Sectionals and Skate Canada Challenge Pre-Novice Pairs Champions.

The Pre-Novice Dance event will be represented by Ha Na Kim and Corey Circelli. Ha Na and Corey represent the Toronto Cricket and Skating Club and are coached by Tracy Wilson, Andrew Hallam and Siobhan Karam. Ha Na is 12 years old and is from Toronto and her partner Corey Circelli is also 12 years old and is from Vaughan. Ha Na and Corey are the 2015 Skate Canada Central Ontario Sectionals Pre-Novice Dance champions and are the 2015 Skate Canada Challenge bronze medalists.

Alison Schumacher from Tecumseh will be representing Ontario in the Novice Women's event. Alison represents the Riverside Skating Club in Windsor, Ontario and trains at the Detroit Skating Club with her coaches Yuka Sato and Jason Dungen. Alison is the 2015 Skate Canada Western Ontario Sectionals Novice Women's Champion as well as the 2014 Skate Ontario Super Series Novice Champion.

Competing in the Novice Men's event will be Conrad Orzel from Woodbridge. Conrad represents the York Region Skating Academy and trains with coach Eva Najarro. Conrad is the 2015 Skate Canada Central Ontario Sectionals Novice Men's Champion and is the Novice Men's bronze medalist at the 2015 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships.

Olivia and Mackenzie Boys-Eddy are a sister/brother team from Brampton and will be competing in the Novice Pair category. Olivia and Mackenzie primarily train with Ashley Greenhalgh at the Skate Canada Brampton Chinguacousy club and with Lee Barkell at the National Performance Centre. Olivia and Mackenzie are the 2015 Skate Canada Central Ontario Sectionals Novice Pair Champions and are the Novice Pair silver medalists at the 2015 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships.

Ellie Fisher and Parker Brown, will be representing Ontario in the Novice Dance event. Ellie is from Lower Cloverdale, New Brunswick and Parker is from Waubaushene, Ontario. They train at the Mariposa International School of Skating in Barrie, with coaches David Islam, Kelly Johnson and James Callan. This team represents the Barrie Skating Club. They are the 2015 Skate Canada Central Ontario Sectionals Novice Ice Dance Champions and Novice bronze medalists at the 2015 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships.

Nadia Bouillion will be competing in the Special Olympics Level 2 Dance event at the Canada Winter Games. Nadia represents the Walden Skating Club, Skate Canada Northern Ontario Section, in Lively, Ontario, and trains with her coach Maxine Connelly. Nadia currently trains all of the Special Olympic events including skills, freeskate and dance. Nadia won the silver medal at the North Bay 2015 Special Olympics Ontario Winter Games in Level 2 Dance.

Julia Romualdi lives in Timmins, and represents the Timmins Porcupine Skating Club, Skate Canada Northern Ontario Section, where she trains with her coach Nadia Riopel. Julia is a grade 12 student, and she is an active program assistant in the CanSkate program in Timmins. In 2013, Julia received the Eva Thompson award for dedication and determination. Julia won the silver medal at the North Bay 2015 Special Olympics Ontario Winter Games in the Level 2 Freeskate event. Julia will be competing in the Special Olympics Level 2 singles event at the 2015 Canada Winter Games.

Thomas Babcock is from Kingston and will be competing in the Special Olympics Level 3 singles event. Thomas trains at the Silver Blades and the Kingston Skating Clubs and has been coached by Lisa Janssen for the past 14 years. Thomas was selected for the 2015 Special Olympics Provincial Winter Games where he placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Level 3 singles, and was thrilled to be chosen to compete at the 2015 Canada Winter Games. Thomas competed at the 2011 Canada Winter Games in Halifax, and is the only returning member of the team.

Jack Fan lives in the Ottawa area and is competing in the Special Olympics Level 3 singles event. He is a member of the Goulbourn Skating Club, and is coached by Cathy Skinner. Jack was the gold medalist at the 2015 Ontario Provincial Winter Games in Level 3 Men's Singles as well as Level 1 Solo Dance and Level 1 Couples Dance. This will be the first Canada Winter Games for Jack.

Skate Ontario is very excited about the experience and expertise of the coaching staff that will be with the team in Prince George. The team manager is John Briscoe from Waterloo. As well as being the Technical Director for Western Ontario, John has over 40 years of coaching experience, and is Level 4 NCCP certified. John has been a team manager for several Ontario Winter Games as well as a being a coach at 10 World Figure Skating Championships and the 1988 Winter Olympic Games. John was the team manager at the 2011 Canada Winter Games in Halifax.

Darlene Joseph, from Navan, is Level 5 NCCP certified, has over 25 years coaching experience and has coached skaters at national and international events. Darlene is presently the Director of Skating at the Gloucester Skating Club in Ottawa, and has had experience as a team coach at the 2011 Canada Winter Games, and several Ontario Winter Games.

Bryce Davison is from Hamilton, and is the Director of Skating Development for the Hamilton Skating Club. Bryce has had experience coaching at the Ontario Winter games, and was a Canadian athlete at the 2006 and 2010 Olympic Winter Games in pairs with his partner Jessica Dube. This will be his first trip to the Canada Winter Games.

Cathy Skinner from Ottawa, is Level 3 NCCP certified and has 26 years of coaching experience including her work with Special Olympics skaters. She was a Team Canada coach for the 2009 Special Olympics World Games, as well as for the 2008 Special Olympics Nationals Games in Quebec City.

Joining the team as a chaperone for the Special Olympic athletes will be Gerald Spencer from Kingston, Ontario.

Representing the Team Ontario mission staff will be Crystal Peiris and Greg Theriault. They have been instrumental during the team development and registration process - ensuring that our athletes fulfill the requirements and meet the expectations as members of Team Ontario.

The team attended a two-day staging camp in Toronto on February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> to help with their preparation for the Games. The camp was developed under the expert direction of Scott Rachuk, Technical Director at Skate Ontario.

Skate Ontario is the recognized Provincial Sport Organization that represents Figure Skating in Ontario. Through its four Skate Canada member Sections, Skate Ontario provides developmental and competitive opportunities for its over 75,000 members.

Skate Ontario is very grateful to the Quest for Gold Team Ontario Development Grant Program, as well as the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for their financial assistance with the camp and the preparation of our team for the Games.

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