# Fall is upon us as evident by our fickle weather. Having my coffee this morning to sunshine outside and then within an hour came the wind and grey sky. (I love the wind though…)

Since our meeting in April we have kept busy with S.S.V.I.S.I. which was extremely successful thanks to our dedicated volunteers (Patricia Anderson, Betsy Burr, Judy Burwash, Kim Cameron, Stephanie Creighton, Launie Elves, Lynda Ostashek, and many others along with our clubs that donated raffle baskets and also money for the Volunteer and Coaches rooms-of which our coaches committee also donated money for the food for the coaches room. We made our biggest profit yet –so thank you to all of you for your support! This money goes straight to our skaters for Grants etc. (and once again I did not win anything at our raffle table!!!)

The BC/YK A.G.M. was held May 5th to 6th-although for me started on the 4th with the Working Group meeting. Our much anticipated cruise along with the Athlete Auction was held on Friday—and once again the Region Chairmen had to dress up-(Cinco di Maya theme) Mexican Bandits we were—and as much as I do not like this part, the costumes were easier to put together than others have been. The cruise boat was different this year and very nice-hopefully we will continue to use this one. Over $8000 was raised through the Auction on the boat and the Silent Auction the next day. Workshops and speakers were held on both Friday and Saturday-think the two everyone was most interested in was the Gaming and the Society changes. The AGM went well but I am always surprised at no one asking questions on reports—either we are doing excellent work or no one wants to get involved-I will choose the first scenario! V.I was well represented with delegates from Campbell River, Comox Valley (plus2) ,Duncan, Fuller Lake (plus 1), Juan de Fuca, Mt Arrowsmith, Nanaimo (plus 3), Racquet Club of Victoria, Sandy Shores. We had proxies from all our other clubs EXCEPT Gold River and Sooke! Club ranking for our Region: Campbell River (Platinum), Juan de Fuca, Racquet Club of Victoria, Saanich (Gold), Okay Bay, Peninsula (Silver). Our Awards ceremony was well done and how wonderful it was to see our own John Mitchell along with his sister Donna-Lee Zaleski in the Athlete Category and Jean Westwood in the Coach category inducted into the Hall of Fame. Yes Billie Mitchell was there (John and Donna-Lees Mom) even though she is 101—and still feisty! Congratulations to Andrea Beatti on receiving the STARSkate Athlete award and to Judy Burwash on getting the Coaches Choice award. Well deserved to all of you! (We also had a Board meeting on the Sunday!)

The Ice Summit was held June 3rd to 4th in Ottawa. I must say I was surprised at the host hotel-we were out in no man’s land with no restaurants close by other than the hotels. (And as always fairly expensive!) The Section though came through and decided to provide us with breakfast and lunch on the two days which was nice and a good way for all of us to be together. The first workshop I attended was the Safe Sport Plenary workshop with special guest speaker Sheldon Kennedy. It began with a screening of Swift Current, a documentary about Sheldon Kennedy, the National Hockey League player whose self-destructive behaviour finally made sense when he came out to the world as a survivor of sex abuse at the hands of Graham James, his coach with the Swift Current Broncos. Swift Current is a devastating portrait of a man who struggles to come to terms with his brutal childhood trauma, and a startling depiction of sexual abuses long-term impact. After the film, there was a keynote address by Sheldon .His impactful and belief in creating and supporting safe sporting environments for children reinforces the importance of Skate Canadas Safe Sport initiative. To say this was “powerful” is an understatement-Sheldon had a hard time at first talking about it then he became more confident and carried on-he said when he finally came out and told what had happened-he thought that was the beginning of healing but in fact it was not—he went for years with alcohol and drug abuse and other athletes looking at him and some saying he enjoyed what happened. This workshop was first thing in the morning and certainly set a different tone. What a remarkable and courageous man Sheldon is!

On a lighter note my second workshop was to be ‘Enhancing your Knowledge to make Informed Decisions” (did you notice I said “to be”?) Well-what would a trip for me be without something happening and this one was true to form-I made the mistake of running to my room to use the “loo” and drop some papers off –then back to the elevator where thank goodness Kevin Gordon was also there along with 12 other people including a 7 ½ month pregnant lady—and we got stuck between the 4th and 3rd floor—and did I mention I get claustrophobic in small areas? Again thank you to Kevin who made sure I just stared at the mirror on the back of the elevator all the while thinking to myself-if this woman goes into labor there is no room to deliver this baby!! 45 minutes later the firemen came and axed through the door and pulled us all out—I then decided the stairs and I were better suited! I did manage the last bit of the second workshop but do not remember one single thing from it. The third one was ‘Modernizing the Judging Pathway” and the last one was STAR 1-5 READY-SET-GO.

The Awards Banquet was quite nice and we did have two award winners from BC –Kortney Story received the Elizabeth Swan memorial award and Sally Rehorick received the Billie Mitchell Award.

The AGM had 197 delegates’ and3403 votes. To note Karen Boucher is now the Ontario Section chair. CEO Debra Armstrong did a great job on the financials etc. and she seems to be a great asset to the National. Oh Benoit Lavoie was elected to the ISU Council and of course Dr. Jane Moran and Cathy Dalton are also on it. Canada is well represented.

Next Ice Summit is May 24th to 27th 2018 in Calgary and 2020 Worlds has been awarded to Montreal March 16th to 22nd 2020.

Our Skater Development meeting was hosted by Kelly Cruickshank (thank you Kelly) in Victoria on May 13th. We discussed and approved future events to be brought forward to our Region executive for approval. The committee is focusing on improving quality standards and competition results. The V.I. Skater Development Seminar is the same weekend as our Region Tri-annual. This will be an event for STAR 4 and higher with a fully rotated axel. Elvis Stojko is our head coach. The L.T.T. will be again at the conclusion of the V.I. Interclub in Mill Bay on November 19th headed by Jeannie Leshures. A Competitive Seminar is in the works with an elite coach aimed at mid-April and Matt will update you on that plus a Bursary being created.

Our Competition Committee meeting was held June in Duncan with our chairman Linda Baxter. Both of our competitions host chairs were in attendance. We went over each announcement line by line.

July 19th saw us with our Executive meeting in Parksville at Judy Burwash’s house. (Thank you Judy for making us lunch and snacks). We have approved to pay 50% of the jacket costs for our Winter Games Team and we also motioned to have our Team Leaders to have a Criminal Check done.

Congratulations to Mr. Ron Vincent on the recent announcement of him being inducted into the Skate Canada Hall of Fame. Well-deserved Ron!!

Coach’s week is September 23rd to 30th –this is your chance to say “thank you” to your coach/coaches. Please do so through Sections to have feedback. We thought this would automatically be done but not so. You must apply!

Please remember clubs that if any of your skaters are on the Provincial Teams and wish feedback the coaches and skaters must apply

Launie Elves is working hard at obtaining volunteers for Sections in Parksville-PLEASE sign up as it takes major volunteers!

As Region Chair I did attend the service for Cheri Rice in Victoria along with Betsy Burr and Peter Gibbons. Cheri was an incredible hard working lady, judge, skater and one of the most remarkable person I have had the pleasure of working with. She will be sorely missed by all.

So this is it for now. I am off to Vancouver on Friday for meetings and will have more to report when I return.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne H-D