So as I sit here contemplating where I hid my spare car keys I cannot think of a better time to start my report!

These have been a busy few months since our last meeting in April. S.S.V.I.S.I. went well-thank you to the clubs that helped with volunteering and sending raffle baskets and food money and to Betsy Burr who organized!

We lost another friend of skating –Nedra Williams-a long time judge/evaluator and member of the Comox Skating Club—and my travelling partner for many many years. Nedra and I always when going away to judge managed to do some kind of touring—and many times it led us to some funny(?) things—like going down the boat launch ramp into the Pacific Ocean in Powell River because it was foggy and we could not see—but we were determined to sight see!! I will miss my friend.

The BC/YK AGM went well and it was so nice of the coaches to nominate and give Jane Sawbridge the Coaches Choice Award-it was well deserved. We welcome Hilary Quick as our new Section Chair and say goodbye to Gail Weber although she will still be around when we need her –and Roberts Rules is her specialty so she is my right hand person! Next year’s Section AGM is May 4th to 7th.

The Ice Summit (still think it is a silly name) in Newfoundland was long and very busy and I will do a summary here in this report. Starting off with my travel woes-as it turned out I flew to Vancouver and then had to go out and collect my luggage and check in again with Air Canada—(had to do with a ticket that needed to be used up). Not so bad except I had 50 minutes to get out of my gate from CR-get my luggage-check in again, go through security and then head down to the other end of terminal— and when I got there to go directly on the plane. Now I land in Montreal—starving and having to go to the loo (and no I do not move on a plane!!) so I am thinking I now have 45 minutes so no problem---WRONG! I land at Gate 62 and it turns out I have to get to Gate 1—again my flight was boarding but the flight attendant was very kind and let me visit the loo and get a quick bite to take on plane. By the time I arrived in my hotel room at the Delta St. John’s in St. Johns it was 3:15 am. The next morning I had breakfast at the hotel and then met up with some others and we registered for the ACGM. The Kitchen Tour was Wednesday and we had fun—although mighty cold with rain pouring down on us. We went on a party bus (and it certainly was that!) out to Cape Spear, Signal Hill and Quidi Vidi Brewery. Cape Spear is the most easterly point of land and offers a spectacular view of the Atlantic Ocean—which we did see in spite of the fog etc. .It is home to the oldest surviving lighthouse in North America and is a prime viewing site for whales and ice bergs. Signal Hill is a historic site and home to St Johns Harbour defences from the 17th century t World War 11. At Quidi Vid we strolled about and then were treated at the Brewery Company with traditional finger foods and some nips of the QVBC products, brewed using 25,000 year old ice-berg water—and we were also treated to live music and some jigs, reels, and found out what mummers were. Thursday I had lunch at the Duke of Duckworth—where the TV series “the Republic of Doyle “ is filmed—which I did not know going in—just simply looking for a place to have fish and chips. Now weird here –in my opinion—they served gravy with their fish!!! –and No I did not have that! Our guest Motivational speaker that evening was Elvis Stojko and he was brilliant—this man has really come into his own and would be wonderful to have if we could get him out here. He is 44 now and very happily married—he had to make a lot of hard choices though to get to that good place in his heart and head. Friday my first workshop was with Monica Locke—and it was very good. We went over mostly the changes for STAR 1 to 5—not so much on STAR 6-10. She knew right away I was from BC because I said we were learning about that end of it and apparently no one else was! There now will be 93 skills to learn in STAR 1 to 5 and the module for educating coaches, board and officials is available. Dance, Freeskate, Elements and Skills will be on all STAR. Philosophy is this is “the Golden Age of Learning”. Wanting to remove barriers for progressive and put strong focus on quality basics and introduce more complex skills earlier for a better foundation for Development and create a better bridge from Canskate to figure skating. For testing test fees will apply to all tests. My second workshop was Taking Canskate from Good to Great with Joanne McLeod. I was not so impressed with this one! My third was the best as SC has finally recognized Special Olympics! Janice Hunter, Sally Rehorick and a coach from New Brunswick ran this and I loved it! A new saying “Keep calm-hit refresh “was born! Friday evening was the Awards banquet and we BC/YK people were so happy with Gail Webber and Marilyn Kreuzinger receiving awards (and they looked beautiful) I personally was disappointed with the setup and how it was presented. It seemed to me more emphasis was put on the SC Team (which was good but---) rather than the volunteers and this evening is supposed to be all about the volunteers. (Just my opinion though) Saturday was the AGM and we started later so the West would not have to get up at some ungodly hour to participate. The big vote of course was about whether Ontario would unify into one Section and the vote to do so was passed. (Yes 82.5%) The new insurance is being implemented because of head injuries basically—which is the biggest percentage of insurance claims. Safe Sport is looking at coach’s loss of income due to injuries plus making sure no minor is abused by a coach. New from ISU –Pattern dance from footwork done by Paul and Piper to be produced. Saturday evening we went to the “Rally in the Alley” which had us experience the night life of downtown St. Johns and enjoyed a traditional fish and chip dinner. The next day we did some sightseeing and went on a boat cruise supposedly to see ice bergs but the water was extremely choppy and thus we were not able to go out too far. It is a super long trip to Newfoundland and we are extremely busy with meetings etc. but I would do it all over again in a heartbeat-the people are so kind! Coming home-again-it was not great-did have layover in Montreal where I was able to eat and relax but in Vancouver had to move it in order to make my next plane –and my seating companion was paralyzed the waist down and he asked me to just go over top of him—not a smart move on my part—the whole plane heard my leg crack and I was then in a wheelchair until my son picked me up in CR. He tried to take me to the hospital but nope-I would not go. Had myself convinced if having a hot bath all would be well-yah not so much-took me about 20 minutes to get into tub and then I could not get out for an hour and some until I finally just bit the bullet! My friend came to pick me up to get some bread and milk and instead took me to the emergency—where long story short-seems I tore my Hamm strings, UCL or whatever it is called and something else—about four months to heal! Only me! Still loved Newfoundland though! And we all got ‘Screeched”!

Our competition committee meeting was held in Duncan in June under Chairman Linda Baxter where we went over our announcements. All STAR events are being put in so it should be interesting. WE have lowered many event fees so hope this helps with registration numbers as we were down quite a bit last year. Interclub referee is Tanya Wardle and Karen Mallon is the Chief Data with Kathy Wallace on computer. Judy Burwash is Referee for Region Championships and Gill Greydanus and Kathy Wallace will co-chair as chief data specialists with Karen Mallon on computer and Judy will also be chief for SSVISI and I am Chief for Kla-how-Ya and Totem and Tech for BC/YK Open Synchro. Happy Karen Mallon is also going with me to Kla-How-ya as Computer Data Specialist. (Hopefully the weather and planes will be kind to us!!)First time I am not doing one on the Island!

Meeting dates are set but there will be discussion on whether to hold the January meeting or not because of lack of numbers attending and because of finances. I sincerely hope we do not pass this but it is up to you the clubs.

Stats as of April: Our three largest clubs on the Island are Juan de Fuca (205), Mt. Arrowsmith (192) and Oak Bay (182) No idea where we are at this season yet.

National coaches week September 17th to 25th—hopefully our clubs will celebrate and thank their coaches! It is with mixed emotions that the Campbell River SC announce the retirement of their long time coach Jannine Ranniger. She has coached for 39 years-24 of those with the CR Club. Enjoy your retirement Jannine!

Hard to believe summer has been and gone and now we look forward to the Fall and the new season of skating. What a wonderful seminar our skaters will have under Kurt Browning! I will be away at the Section meeting then but hope to get down on Sunday to watch some of it. 25 of our coaches will also be in attendance!

So am now back from the Section meeting and have a few things to add (some of which we will discuss under New Business on the Agenda):

**. I cannot stress enough how important it is for our clubs and Region too NOT to do any changes to their By-Laws and Constitutions. We will discuss more of this later on. To note the Agenda for the Section AGM is completed and Michael our lawyer will be running a workshop on EXACTLY what wording etc. we are to do in regards to Society. There are many questions to be answered first. The Section Board will be meeting with him in March to finalize then he will do the workshop on the Friday from 1:00 to 4:30 pm PLEASE plan on sending at least one member of your Board to this. (Yes it will be live streamed to) There will also be a Gaming workshop on Saturday too.**

.Ice Summit will be held in Ottawa June 2017

.Kelowna Camp Invitations are ready. You will note the Target scores have not changed-however for the Prospect Team Target scores for Pre-Jv and Juv do differ by 5 points.

.Club Ranking is going to become mandatory because of Government funding to Section so it was nice we had 8/17 clubs this past year-now ALL will be done this year.

.All Region seminars-stats must be sent to Danielle Williams

. Price of ribbons going up—all will double so please if you need them order within the week or else be ready to pay big bucks.

.Next Gen: 7 of our skaters (BC) have been invited and each will have a Bye right through to Challenge (SC is picking up travel, food, and hotel and Section is paying registration) which means our Tem will be around 61.

.Section registration deadline is September 28th

.Autumn Leaves has cancelled Interpretive events.

.5/6 Women for the Grand Prix will come from BC

I am about to have another grandchild come the beginning of December which is quite funny as the doctor was treating her for pre-menopausal and it turned out she was 6 months pregnant! Happy me though! (And we already know it is a boy!)

Oh and I still have not found my blasted keys but on a positive note-my room is getting a much needed clean!

So see you all soon-cheers!!

Lynne

***“Go as far as you can see; when you get there, you’ll be able to see further.”***

*Update: Found my keys-only took 14 days!*