



CLUB HISTORY

In January 1990, construction of the Clavet Community Arena was completed to the point where ice could be put in. An invitation had been extended to the community from the Clavet Community Arena Board to develop a skating club. In February 1990, the Clavet Skating Club was formed. Efforts continued by the membership to organize our club, hence application was made to affiliate with the Canadian Figure Skating Association – C.F.S.A. (now known as SkateCanada).

All the original members of our club were at the CanSkate Level. The club did not have a coach, nor could they afford one so early in its infancy. As a result, volunteers Clem Fortin and Leslie Schmidt became the club's first skating instructors. In the second year of operation, and the first full season (1990-91), Marion Johnstone volunteered to help instruct and replace Leslie Schmidt. The club's growing numbers and the interest in our sport made very good use of the volunteer instructors. During the 1991-92 season, the skaters' skills continued to improve and the level of instruction required responded to the need. Irene Redden, an amateur skater from the Dundurn Army Camp was recruited to help with the instruction. At that point, the club offered the CanFigureSkate program (now referred to as Junior Starskate) for the first time.

The Clavet Skating Club was granted "probationary status" with C.F.S.A. on January 29, 1991. Many thanks to the Allan Skating Club which sponsored the Clavet Skating Club in their application, assisted with the completion of many forms, and aided in the development of our club constitution. With their assistance, the Clavet Skating Club was granted "permanent status as an affiliated club" with C.F.S.A. As an affiliated member, we now had rules, more rules, insurance and organization.

The Clavet Skating Club developed an identity and pride which was already the energy of many. Numerous members are to thank for their contributions. Our club logo was designed by John Spencer, a skating parent. We still take pride in this identity today. The first Ice Shows and competitions generated relatively equal excitement as we see today.

In the fall of 1992, the Clavet Skating Club pursued the expertise of a professional coach. Clem Fortin was charged with the responsibility of coaching contracts. What seemed to be an unfortunate change of heart on a verbal agreement between the club and a potential coach, turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Following a desperate scramble, the Clavet Skating Club was very proud to secure our first professional coaches, Blaise and Yvette Kirchgessner. Our professional coaching team continue to inspire our skaters.

The Clavet Skating Club would not have evolved, nor would it continue if it were not for the volunteers that were, and still are committed to this club. It is the unending support of the parents, the tireless efforts of the coaches, and the dedication of our skaters that make our club shine.