



Newmarket Jets Speed Skating Club

The Club began in 1996 with a handful of skaters and has grown into one of the most successful clubs in the Province of Ontario. This year we are proudly the home club of four Provincial Champions and one silver place finisher. Seven of our athletes just recently attended the Canada East National Championship in New Brunswick which also resulted in a podium finish.

We have been hosting speed skating competitions at the Magna Centre since 2009. We successfully hosted the Provincial Champions in 2014 and again in 2018 coinciding with the Winter Olympics. When *hosting competitions, we draw skaters and their families from across the province which help support the local economy.* Currently one weekend per season is allocated to our club to host events at the Magna Centre and I am sure we could host more events if we could obtain more times. The Magna Centre has developed a reputation as being one of the best centres in Ontario for competitions.

Our sport is specialized in that we require an Olympic size ice pad and a large quantity of safety mats in order to operate at a highly competitive level. This limits where we can skate in Newmarket. We must skate on the Forhan Olympic ice surface which is also where we store our safety mats. We currently skate two nights per week on this ice pad and have found it difficult to secure any additional ice time. Since this is not enough time for our competitive skaters, they are forced to practice with other speed skating clubs at other arenas such as the MasterCard Centre in Toronto, the Mount Joy arena in Markham or the Allendale arena in Barrie.

We have seen a substantial increase in our membership over the past couple of years and we anticipate that number will continue to grow as our program increases in popularity and the population growth in Newmarket and surrounding areas.

If the Town closes the Hollingsworth arena without building a new facility and place those current users at the existing arenas like the Ray Twinney Complex and the Magna Centre we hope that this would not impact our access to ice as any reductions in ice time would greatly affect our club's ability to maintain the high level of success in expanding the participation in the sport and producing high performance athletes, including Provincial Champions and beyond. We respectfully request Council consider the impact of closing the Hollingsworth arena on our sport and the Newmarket Jets and ways to increase availability to more ice time going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Simpson".

Diane Simpson, President

Dated: April 4th, 2019