



Dear Parents:

Welcome to Skate Ontario, the **Chatham Skating Club**. My name is Jo-Ann Batten and I am responsible for co-coordinating our **CanSkate** program, “**Canada’s Best Learn to Skate Program**”.

I am proud to introduce you to our club team. This team works together to provide you with the best **CanSkate** program possible within the guidelines set up by Skate Canada.

**Chatham Club CanSkate Coaches:**

Jo-Ann Batten  
Joelle Batten  
Renee Bergey  
Sabrina Coomber  
Valerie Duquette  
Elyse Gregory  
Rihana Kukkadi  
Sandy MacDougall  
Krystal Johnson  
Hannah Ross  
Laura Smith  
Zachary Stallaert

**Chatham Club CanSkate Committee:**

CFSC President: Jennifer Larson-Cochrane  
CFSC Past-President: Rhonda Jubenville-Stallaert  
CFSC Vice-President Kelly Meredith  
**CanSkate** Board members: Carolynn Gregory (Chair)  
Suham Doey  
Sue Blackburn  
Cheryl Ross (PA Chair)

**CanSkate** is a complete series of balance, control and agility skills that will prepare skaters for any ice skating sport or recreational skating. Our on-ice delivery focuses on continuous movement including the Fast Track and the Fun Zone all of which has been proven to increase practice opportunities, improve the rate of skill acquisition that guarantees success. Visual aids & music are used to create a fun, stimulating & welcoming environment.

It is important that you become familiar with our Thames Campus Arena facility. We ask that skaters put their skates on in the change rooms & please not in the arena lobby. As you enter the arena, you will see an electronic billboard assigning your change room #; continue to the right & through the doors that lead to the ice surface to find the change room. Your child’s name tag is to be picked up as you pass by at the **CanSkate** table & will be collected at the end of the session by the coaches or assistants on the ice. Please do not take the name tag home.

It is also important that an adult remain in charge of your skater while they are attending our program; if this is not going to be yourself, please indicate this to us. It is important to have someone responsible for your skater in the event of an emergency.

We want to remind you at this time that you have signed up for skating from September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please note that there is NO SKATING on Monday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Day). Please refer to your calendar, club handbook, club web-site or Club Facebook for other No Skate Days and important information.

This year there will be several special event days to look forward to such as a Halloween Party, a Christmas Party & our annual Ice Show. We encourage you to read our newsletters, bulletin board, club handbook, FACEBOOK (Chatham Skating Club – Official Group) or website: [www.chathamskatingclub.com](http://www.chathamskatingclub.com) for specific information or schedule changes.

**CanSkate** is a nationally standardized program taught by Skate Canada professional coaches who are trained & certified specifically in teaching the mechanics and proper technique of skating. Our coaches are assisted by trained Program Assistants (PAs). Our PAs (who wear the red jackets) are specially trained to deliver the best **CanSkate** program possible. Our coaches and PAs work as a team to ensure that your skaters have fun and achieve success on the ice.

The CanSkate program curriculum is organized into three Fundamental Areas: BALANCE, CONTROL & AGILITY. The awards consist of three fundamental ribbons for each stage. There are 6 (1 – 6) badge award stages.

We have 2 groups of skaters on our **CanSkate** sessions, **Pre-CanSkaters** (new skaters age 5 & under) & **CanSkaters** (older than 5 or who have passed the **Pre-CanSkate** tests). Please note that we offer an **Adult Learn to Skate Program** as well.

Skaters progress at their own rate through **CanSkate**. As soon as a skater achieves a skill, they will get credit for it. As soon as a skater achieves all the skills in a particular level they receive the award (a ribbon) for that level. When the skater has received all 3 skill ribbons for that level, they will receive the Stage Badge. The badge station is at the **CanSkate** Table in the arena lobby but skaters will receive their awards on the ice. There will be two **CanSkate** Report Cards issued during the skating season to keep everyone updated on their skater's progress.

Please note that the **Pre-CanSkater** will receive as much individual attention as possible in their lessons but there will be times that the skater will need to go “solo” to learn the desired skill. Often teaching a skater to get up by themselves is one of these skills. As soon as a skater has passed the entire **Pre-CanSkate** skill test, the skater will receive their award certification & then move into **CanSkate** (one hour session). Additional registration fees will apply.

Group lessons are a really good place to start however some skaters do better in a one on one situation (private lesson). If you would like more information on private lessons there is a list of Professional Coaches in our club handbook. Please feel free to make the necessary arrangements to receive private lessons with your desired professional coach in addition to any **CanSkate** session.

Thank you for your interest in **CanSkate, Canada's Best Learn-to-skate Program**. The Chatham Skating Club is excited to have you aboard this season! Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask any of the board representatives at the **CanSkate** Table....they are there to help you and answer any questions.

We are looking forward to another fun, enjoyable & successful season!

Yours in skating!

*JoAnn Batten*