



Members of the Rideau Skating Club have been very busy over the past month. The Eastern Ontario Starskate Invitational Championship (EOSIC) was held in Napanee with 17 Rideau skaters participating in Men's and Women's Singles, Pairs, Dance, and Skills. Three of these skaters, Lauren Welchner, Evan Welchner and Emily Valentine won Gold Medals in their events moving on to represent Eastern Ontario at The Trillium Starskate Championships held in Waterloo last weekend, where the Dance Team of Emily Valentine with her partner Malcolm Jones from the Gloucester Skating Club took the silver medal in Junior Bronze dance. Emily and Malcolm are coached by Darryl VanLuven and Marie Josee Cloutier. Lauren and Evan Welchner competed in Introductory Pairs at Trillium while Evan Welchner also competed in Junior Bronze Men. Lauren and Evan are coached by Andrew Bestwick and Jan Calnan at Rideau.

Also last week Kailey Taplin with her partner Sam Johnstone represented Eastern Ontario at the Ontario Winter Games in Juvenile Pairs, an honour they earned after placing third at the Eastern Ontario Sectionals Championship (Competitive championship) held last November in Oshawa.

Kailey and Sam finished forth in the Games, and are coached by Andrew Bestwick and Jan Calnan at Rideau.

EOSIC is a very large competition with hundreds of competitors from all over Eastern Ontario. A good number of our skaters made it past the first round into the semi finals and finals of their events, which in itself is a great accomplishment.

In Pre-Preliminary Ladies Melinda Meng advanced to the finals, while Claudia Guadagno-Laundy and Emily Shearer advanced to the Semi-Finals. Gillian Campbell skated for her first time at Pre-Preliminary.

In Preliminary Ladies, Lauren Welchner advanced to the finals, finishing in fourth place. Leia Hopkins and Emily Valentine also competed for Rideau at Preliminary Ladies.

In Junior Bronze Ladies Kailey Taplin advanced to the Semi-Finals, while Samantha Glavine, Victoria Huddleson and Laura Mulvey also represented Rideau at this level. In Junior Bronze Men's there was only a final, and three of the skaters were representing Rideau. Evan Welchner won the Gold medal, with Andrew Meng and Andrew Wildey also competing.

There was also only a final in Junior Bronze Dance and Emily Valentine with her partner Malcolm Jones, won the Gold Medal here, and were on their way to Trillium.

Representing Rideau in Senior Bronze Ladies were Courtney Douglas and Jasmine Hedley, while Jessica DeChamplain skated in Senior Silver Skills and Lauren and Evan Welchner skated in Introductory Pairs, where Evan picked up his second gold medal, and his sister picked up her first, sending them both to Trillium.