



Newsletter #2-End of Summer Check in

A Note from the President

I hope you've all enjoyed your summer and found time to pick up your hockey sticks as often as possible! It has been fantastic to see so many of our SASA players participating in clinics, programs, trainings, and summer teams. Their dedication to the sport is truly commendable, and a special thank you goes out to the parents who help keep the hockey spirit alive—even when the snow isn't flying.

There's a lot happening here at SASA. We are exploring every avenue to strengthen our program—from improvements to the Skate Shack, to expanded training opportunities for our coaches, to reviewing and updating the bylaws that guide our organization. The board remains deeply committed to our players, our membership, and our mission. Hockey teaches far more than just the game; it builds responsibility, work ethic, resilience, and respect for others.

We also appreciate your continued patience and support as we roll out positive changes across the organization. I hope you've had a chance to check out our new website at www.stalbanshockey.org and download the **Crossbar app**. These tools will greatly improve communication, scheduling, and organization across the board. With registration officially open, we're confident these updates will make the process smoother and more straightforward for everyone.

As summer winds down, I hope you enjoy these last weeks of school vacation and gear up for what promises to be an **epic 2025–26 SASA season!**

Warmly,

Kevin Smith

President, St. Albans Skating Association

Executive Board Member Change

We are **thrilled to announce** that **Andy Norris** has been appointed to fill the Treasurer position. Andy has deep ties to SASA and brings a wealth of expertise as a skilled accountant. We are fortunate to have him in this role and are excited for the work he will do to help us achieve our mission of taking SASA to the next level—both organizationally and financially.

Board Meeting Location Change

Starting in August board meetings will be held at Northwestern Counseling and Support Services at the Family Center location (130 Fisher Pond Road). Please use the side entrance. There is greater capacity for membership to attend in addition to a larger space and ability to utilize technology.

Goalie & Skater Concerns

We heard membership raise concerns at last month's board meeting, specifically around the 12U team having limited skaters and no goalie. We are proud to say we have secured a goalie for the 12U team and continue to search for additional goalies to add. **Remember there is a finder's fee for anyone who refers a new goalie who registers at the 12U level!**

Bylaw Committee Update

The Bylaw Committee continues its work on revamping the articles that govern our organization. They have dedicated countless hours to writing, reviewing, and researching ways to make our Bylaws explicitly clear and an effective tool for decision-making.

The goal is to publish the proposed changes this fall and finalize the updated document shortly thereafter. As with all initiatives at SASA, our aim is to produce a formal, accessible document that will guide both the board and our membership in all aspects of decision-making within the organization.

Communication Committee Update

Our first SASA newsletter received wonderful feedback, and we're excited to make this a monthly publication for our membership! Each edition will feature:

- Major highlights from the most recent board meeting
- Special updates and upcoming events
- Other important information to keep our community informed

Once the season begins, we'll also be incorporating **team news, highlights, and other newsworthy SASA items** to showcase the incredible things happening across our organization.


If there's something you'd like to see included in a future edition, please reach out to **Emily Norris** at emilyn@stalbanshockey.org.

Technology

- Crossbar platform is now LIVE!! This will replace sports engine and will offer a user friendly and concise way to get all of the SASA information and updates you are seeking!
 - SASA has a new website! Please visit www.stalbanshockey.org. We are confident you will like what you see.
 - New email addresses have been assigned to all board members and special committees. These will be added to the new website for your convenience.
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Fundraising Update

- Calcutta Fundraiser – Mark your calendars! Our Calcutta fundraiser is set for **Thursday, October 23rd at Maqam Barn and Winery**. More details will be shared soon. A huge thank you to Shaun and Darcy Brooks for generously offering their venue to host this incredible SASA event!
- Growing Sponsorships – Over the past few months, we've received tremendous support from individuals and businesses. These sponsorships are opening new opportunities to enhance our program and support our players in ways we never have before.
- Fresh Fundraising Approach – We're thinking outside the box when it comes to fundraising—exploring ideas such as outsourcing merchandise vendors who will both produce and sell the merch at tournaments/events and partnering with a vendor to handle snack bar ordering and delivery. Our goal is to run both large and small fundraisers with precision while minimizing the time commitment required from our membership. We want to ensure our fund raisers are successful and that we are making every effort count to maximize the benefit passed onto our membership and most importantly our players!
- Stay Tuned – We're confident our fresh approach to fundraising will be welcomed by members, and we'll share more details as plans take shape.

 Do you have a fresh fundraising idea? Join us at a board meeting or fundraising meeting to share your thoughts—we welcome all creative and innovative ideas!

Volunteer Hours

We are nearing completion of our in-depth review of SASA's **volunteer hour commitment**. Over the years, we've heard feedback that the required hours may be too high or, in some cases, unnecessary. Our goal is to ensure volunteer time is **efficient, purposeful, and impactful** for both our members and the organization.

This review includes:

- Assessing **how many hours are truly needed** and during which times
- Analyzing **peak snack bar usage** to determine optimal staffing
- Evaluating the **profitability of various fundraisers** to ensure we're maximizing results
- Exploring **new fundraising ideas** that could directly influence both the amount and type of volunteer hours required

We are hopeful that members will appreciate our fresh approach and will share more details as soon as possible.

Young Blades

- Registration NOW OPEN! – We're excited to welcome our newest skaters to the ice!
 - Updated Minimum Age – With the minimum age for Young Blades now set at 3 years old, we are carefully reviewing coaching patterns and requirements for our youngest players. Our goal is to ensure a safe, positive, and fun learning environment for these future hockey stars. Extra consideration is being given to all potential scenarios to best support our littlest players.
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Girls Program

- 26 girls attended the first on-ice session in July!
 - Family meetings and video project underway.
 - SASA will be hosting a **Girls Try Hockey** event on **Sunday October 12th @ 11**. Skates, helmets and equipment will be available to use. Pizza will be served @ 12. Current SASA players may attend **ONLY IF** they bring a friend to try skating and hockey!
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Skate Shack Facelift!

Some of you may have noticed the **Skate Shop** is currently undergoing a facelift! We recognized the need for a larger, more functional space—after all, it can get crowded in there pretty quickly.

Our goal is not only to **increase capacity for skate sharpening** but also to expand our selection of **merchandise, gear, and accessories**, so you can find what you need on demand. This upgrade will make

the shop more efficient, accessible, and better equipped to serve our SASA community as well as visiting teams/associations.

Let's Take Care of One Another

We are committed to supporting the wellness of our players from both a **physical and mental health perspective**. This season, we will be engaging in and coordinating **mental health first aid-style trainings** to ensure that coaches and players are equipped to:

- Support one another in times of need
- Recognize when someone may require additional care or resources

This is part of a **statewide initiative**, and we will share more information as details become available. Together, we can foster an environment where every player feels safe, supported, and valued.

Raising the Bar on Expectations

As we work toward building a stronger SASA, we invite all members to join us in **raising the bar** when it comes to interpersonal communication, conflict management, and accountability.

If you have a concern regarding a fellow member, coach, or player, please reach out to a board member so we can help you navigate the situation and provide any necessary follow-up. Our commitment is to be **transparent, consistent, and effective** in our communication—and we ask the same of our membership.

We are not afraid to address challenges or work through conflicts, but the best solutions come when we work together in a **collaborative and solution-focused** way. We all share the same goal: to provide a **fun and safe environment** for our children to play hockey.

We are committed to leading by example—showing our SASA players the right way to navigate challenges and resolve conflicts with respect, teamwork, and integrity.

Stay Connected!

Information is constantly flowing—be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to stay in the loop. There's so much happening, and we're excited to share it with you across multiple platforms!

Questions or Need More Info?

Want more information? Have a question?

 Email us at info@sasahockey.org and we'll do our best to help!

