

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speed Skaters Close Strong

April 5, 2013, Charlottetown – Carly Connell and Michael Rogers each had several top ten finishes to lead Team P.E.I.'s nine member contingent at the Canada East Short Track Championship, held recently in Halifax. The meet culminated the season for the top 11- to 15-year-old skaters from Ontario, Quebec, the Atlantic Provinces and Nunavut.

Connell managed a 9th overall ranking in the 14-year-old girls division, despite some tough luck with falls in three of her four events. The Charlottetown athlete had the best single event finish for the Island team with 5th place in the 200 metre pursuit, where her time of 22.03 seconds was just 24 hundredths of a second off the podium. Connell suffered costly falls in each of her other 3 events, but also picked up P.E.I.'s second best result with a 6th place showing in the 400 metre distance, along with 10th in the 1500 metre and 13th in the 3000 metre points race.

Rogers earned his 9th overall placement in the 14-year-old boys class with consistent top 10 finishes. His best result came in the 400 metre event where he raced to 7th place, recording a time within a tenth of a second of his personal best. Rogers had another top 8 in the 200 metre pursuit race and finished 9th in both the 1500 metre distance and in his 3000 metre points race.

Peter McQuaid notched P.E.I.'s other top ten finish in his 3000 metre points race and was 11th in his 400 metre distance, less than 3 tenths of second off his personal best in the final. McQuaid finished 11th overall among 12-year-old boys. Zach Moran finished 13th overall among the 14-year-old boys group, edging teammate Jared Vriends who finished 14th overall. Vriends had a very strong 3000 metre points race, but was disqualified for skating off track and received last place points in the event. Vriends also had a strong 200 metre pursuit time, just 15 hundredths of a second from his personal best.

Korrina LeClair made her second appearance at the Canada East event. LeClair placed 14th overall as the Island's lone competitor among 13-year-old girls, including a time just off her personal best in the 200 metre pursuit. Samuel Ryan made his first trip to the event and came away with a 12th overall finish among 12-year-old boys, after posting a significant personal best time in the 1500m distance. Eliana Monthony and Kristen Binns placed 13th and 14th, respectively, in the 11-year-old girls age group. Monthony saved her best for the end of the season, with significant personal bests in each of her distances. Binns also posted personal bests in her 400 and 1500 metre distances and had her best result with an 11th place finish in the 200 metre pursuit.

P.E.I. coach Sarah Taylor said she was very proud of the team. "Both on and off the ice, this group put their best foot forward and represented P.E.I. very well. I can see that they are leaving here with even more motivation to train and compete with the best. Many of these skaters will be challenging for spots on our 2015 Canada Games team and this event was a great building block for them."

Quebec skaters dominated the competition, winning 81 of 96 individual medals. Ontario placed second with 13, while New Brunswick skaters ranked third with two individual medals.

Full results and additional information can be found at www.speedskatepei.com.