



Jenna Larter

Hometown: Brookfield

Age: 16 Years Old

School: Bluefield High School, Grade 11

Instagram: @jennalarter3

Jenna Larter may be the newest speed skater on the PEI short-track team, but she's far from inexperienced. The winner of the Nancy White Award as PEI's top female speed skater in the 2017-18 season, the Brookfield speedster has already had her share of chances to represent PEI on the national speed skating stage. And represent, she has.

Larter was the first - and so far only - female skater from PEI to win a medal at the Canada East Short Track Speed Skating Championships, with her silver medal in the 200 metres in Ottawa in 2017. In 2018, at the Canadian Junior Selections competition in Calgary, Larter took more than two seconds off the P.E.I. record time for Junior women in the 500 metres. Perhaps more impressively, Jenna's 500 metre time in Calgary was the third fastest by a PEI female skater of any age. Owners of the two faster times? None other than Carly Connell and Jenna Gallant, Team PEI flag bearers at the 2015 and 2003 Canada Winter Games.

With multiple sport interests including hockey, soccer, badminton, track and swimming, Larter originally got into speed skating to improve her skating skills. Never one to shy away from aiming high, Larter isn't changing her goal setting strategy for Red Deer, where she is aiming for her best yet. Given her achievements to date, that could be very good indeed.



Jenna Larter (right). October 2018. Photo courtesy of Amanda Burke.



Mia Stewart

Hometown: Stratford

Age: 16 Years Old

School: Charlottetown Rural High School, Grade 11

Languages: English and French

When Mia Stewart walks into the opening ceremonies for the Canada Winter Games in Red Deer in February, her speed skating team-mates will be glad it is with them. As a multi-sport athlete, Stewart had more than one potential path to the 2019 Games. While she got her first taste of speed skating at age 7, her development on the ice took place alongside a “parallel” pursuit as a competitive gymnast.

With lots of soccer also in the sporting mix, Stewart has never been short on activities. But, as 2019 drew closer, Mia made the decision to pursue a berth on the short track speed skating team - a sport she plans to continue with beyond the Canada Winter Games. It's likely she'll have no problem finding a long-term home in the sport, where she is already giving back as a coach with Speed Skate PEI's Learn to Skate programs.

While the Stratford native has already tasted success in speed skating - setting a provincial record in her age group at the Canada East Short Track Championships on home ice in 2016 - she is looking to deliver her best performances in Red Deer in February. Her speed skating coaches and teammates couldn't be happier with her choice.



Mia Stewart (left). October 2017. Photo courtesy of Kristen Binns.



Andrew Binns

Hometown: Stratford

Age: 16 Years Old

School: Charlottetown Rural High School, Grade 11

Languages: English and French

Instagram: @andrew.314

Andrew Binns remembers his early days with Speed Skate PEI quite clearly. As with many young beginners, there was lots of crying before and during his first Learn to Skate outings. After a couple of years of attending Sunday afternoon skates with his family, the then five-year-old had joined Speed Skate PEI after a family friend recommended the speed skating club to his parents. Despite the early tears, Binns' love for speed skating grew quickly and has continued to grow until the present day. And with that passion, his skills and results have also grown. It might be the case that his racing opponents have been doing more of the crying since Binns got his start.

Already a two-time winner of Speed Skate PEI's top male skater award, Andrew was the first ever PEI medal winner at the Canada East Short Track Speed Skating Championships, where he has won five medals over the past two years. In November of 2018, Binns cracked a long-standing provincial record for junior men in the 500 metre distance, becoming the fourth fastest skater from PEI, of any age, over the 500 metre distance.

Also a past competitive hockey and soccer player, Binns attended club Nationals in soccer in 2016 and was team captain of his provincial soccer team in 2015. Andrew enjoys cycling in his free time and plans to continue with competitive speed skating after the Canada Games.



Andrew Binns (left). March 2018. Photo courtesy of Kristen Binns.



Kyle Connell

Hometown: Charlottetown

Age: 16 Years Old

School: Charlottetown Rural High School, Grade 11

Languages: English and French

No member of the PEI speed skating team has spent as many years in Speed Skate PEI's programs as Kyle Connell. And, it is more than likely that none have logged as many hours on the ice over the past twelve years. Connell followed his older brother Jack and big sister Carly into the sport when he was just four years old and as with his siblings, competitive hockey has also been a big part of Kyle's sporting life. But, with a chance to be a key part of PEI's short track team in Red Deer, Connell has focused his energies on speed skating this season and is making the most of those accumulated hours on the ice.

Like his sister Carly, who carried the PEI flag into the Opening Ceremonies of the 2015 Canada Winter Games in Prince George, Kyle has his name on multiple provincial speed skating records and is only getting faster and stronger every year.

Connell knows what teamwork is about. In addition to his many years of competitive hockey, he has been a part of PEI soccer teams competing at Nationals for the last three seasons. At the Canada Winter Games, Kyle is looking to gain experience he can put to good use as he continues with competitive speed skating. Looking further ahead, Kyle also plans to continue playing soccer while pursuing a university education.



Kyle Connell. October 2018. Photo courtesy of Amanda Burke.



William Lyons

Hometown: Rock Barra

Age: 15 Years Old

School: École La Belle Cloche, Grade 9

Languages: English and French

Instagram: @William_lyons4

It has been a long road to the Canada Winter Games for William Lyons, quite literally. Travelling to Charlottetown from his Eastern Kings home several times per week for the last number of years has meant big mileage for William and his parents. The youngest member of the PEI speed skating team heading to Red Deer, Lyons is also one of the most successful. In his two appearances at the Canada East Short Track Championships in 2017 and 2018, William has earned three medals against the best in his age group from Quebec, Ontario and the Atlantic provinces.

After starting out in hockey, Lyons got into speed skating after hearing about and being encouraged by another speed skater from his area who had been on PEI's Canada Winter Games team for the 2007 Games in Whitehorse. After balancing both winter sports for several seasons, William decided to focus on his long blade passion and hasn't looked back. With a growing collection of medals and provincial records to his name, Lyons will be looking to add to his resume in Red Deer, where he is targeting a top 25 overall ranking, while meeting athletes from other provinces.

Away from the rink, William enjoys mountain biking and road cycling along with soccer. He's also had success in running, where he set a provincial record on the track and has competed at the Acadian Games. Looking ahead, Lyons plans to continue speed skating and hopes to represent PEI again at the 2023 Canada Winter Games on home ice.



William Lyons (left). February 2018. Photo courtesy of Kristen Binns.



Peter McQuaid
Hometown: Charlottetown
Age: 19 Years Old
School: University of Prince Edward Island, 2nd Year

Peter McQuaid will be the veteran on PEI's short track team in Red Deer, after making his Canada Winter Games ("CWG") debut in Prince George in 2015. In that first CWG appearance, McQuaid posted the top individual event finish among his male team-mates, with 19th place in the 49 athlete field in the 1500 metre event. This time, McQuaid will head to Red Deer with raised goals, including a top ten individual finish and to help his men's relay team to a first ever medal for a PEI short-track relay team.

Named top male skater by Speed Skate PEI for the 2017-18 season, only two PEI short track skaters have ever posted faster times in the 1000 metre or 1500 metre distances than McQuaid; only one has bettered McQuaid's best 500 metre time. But, his speed isn't restricted to the ice. Peter has been a long-time competitive runner and was also a competitive soccer player. After sitting out the current season to focus on speed skating, McQuaid intends to be back with the UPEI cross country team for next season.

On-ice results aside, McQuaid will achieve a rare double in Red Deer. Not only will he be making a second trip to CWG and have his brother Thomas alongside as a fellow member of the short track team, but it will be the second time he has been to CWG with a sibling, as his older brother Andrew was a short track teammate in Prince George in 2015.



Peter McQuaid (left). October 2018. Photo courtesy of Amanda Burke.



Thomas McQuaid

Hometown: Charlottetown

Age: 17 Years Old

School: Colonel Gray High School, Grade 12

When Thomas McQuaid takes to the ice in Red Deer, he'll become the fourth and final McQuaid sibling to put on PEI's colours at the Canada Games. After his sister Mary Catherine competed in wrestling in Sherbrooke in 2013, his brothers, Andrew and Peter, went to the 2015 Canada Winter Games in Prince George as members of the Island's short track speed skating team. Thomas will also have the benefit of some of that sibling experience close by in Red Deer, as his brother Peter will be making a return trip to the Canada Winter Games.

But, athletic family genes weren't enough to guarantee McQuaid a spot on PEI's Red Deer squad. With a strong pool of athletes competing for spots on the male short track team, McQuaid had to come up with several clutch performances this fall to grab a spot on the team.

Now, a dozen years since Thomas and Peter became interested in trying speed skating after seeing it on television, McQuaid has his own chance to put his skills to the test on a big national stage, with Peter, his brother and source of inspiration, by his side. Thomas enjoys music and biking in his spare time and plans to study at UPEI in the future.



Thomas McQuaid. October 2018. Photo courtesy of Amanda Burke.