

Skating championships a first-class event*By Cambridge Times Editorial*

Editorial

Mar 31, 2009

For those who attended the Canadian Age Class Short Track Speed Skating Championships on the weekend, it was quite a spectacle.

Not only were the races exciting and a great promotion for the sport in the city, but the championship committee did a superb job the entire weekend. Besides basically transforming the rink into a short track oval, complete with on-ice logos and overhead TVs for results, everything was run professionally. Even the ice held up all weekend.

The hardest part in organizing an event is getting behinds in the seat to watch it. Friday, possibly the hardest day to get spectators from 9 to 5, had waves of people coming in and out, with some of the largest groups compiled of school children. That's taking the event right to the grass-roots level.

For the rest of the weekend the seats were full and it was easy to see that the cheering drove some of the athletes. Several people, including Team Alberta coach Shawn Holman said the event was run better than some Olympic trials and national events.

That's a feather in the cap that the committee and volunteers can wear with pride.