



WINTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2007

# FUN AND FAIR PLAY FOR ALL

Vancouver Thunderbirds Minor Hockey Association #170 – 4438 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vancouver B.C. V6R 4R8  
[www.vancouverfbirds.ca](http://www.vancouverfbirds.ca)

## President's Message:

Having now been in the position of President of the Thunderbirds for almost a year, I have come to learn a great deal about the association and minor hockey in general. By far the most surprising lesson for me has been just how much work goes into making this organization run smoothly and, more astonishing still, how all of this work is being done by people who are volunteering their services. The 2006/2007 season has been incredibly eventful, marked by many serious challenges and throughout all of this I have observed a dedication amongst our board members, coaching staff and other team officials that has left me truly impressed.

In particular, I am very proud of your executive members who have been tireless in their efforts to solve the problems of our ice shortage, the implementation of new rep policies, fundraising issues with 50/50 sales and our perennial balancing demands. I will touch on all of these issues in this report but invite anyone with any questions to contact me at any time for more details.

The Olympics have created havoc for our association by causing a reduction in the number of rinks available for us to use. We have placed huge burdens on our teams in terms of both ice times and locations this year and there can be no denying that it has been extremely troublesome. The midgets in particular are coping with games that start so late in the night that we have had to receive special approval from the Presidents league for an exception to the rules which require a game to be started no later than 10:00 pm. We are truly appreciative of how flexible this division has been.

The Thunderbirds owe a huge debt to Gaye Collins for her persistence in negotiating more and better ice times. During her presidency she established a number of connections in the sports community which are now paying dividends. Without her work over the last three years, our situation would be significantly worse than it is and, quite simply, we would have had to have reduced our enrolment dramatically. With the assistance of Bruce Walker, Gaye continues to attend rink user meetings, lobby government officials, and work with UBC to advance our interests in terms of ice in the future. I understand that she will be detailing her efforts and observations in this regard in her report and so I will not write anything more other than to again express my deepest appreciation for her guidance and her genuine commitment to your children.

All of our House teams were declared balanced fairly early this year with relatively little friction. Debbie Campbell and all of the House Division Managers are to be congratulated for this feat. Our Pee wee/Atom tournament was a huge success over the holiday break. Thanks again to Debbie and Shirley Campbell along with all of the other fantastic volunteers for their efforts in putting on this wonderful event.

Ken Gordon has been ushering in a new approach to the Rep Program this year and this has involved an enormous amount of work which at times has been utterly thankless. As is to be expected when change is made, we have been receiving much feedback on the changes and we plan to canvass your thoughts further in the future, perhaps through a survey. Ken has dedicated himself to improving this side of our association and he truly has my gratitude for those efforts.

The Initiation Program has larger numbers than ever before. With the assistance of his Division Managers, Bill Juhasz has been coping very well with the increased number of teams along with the implementation of our new Introduction to Hockey Program for new H3 and H4 players, which has been very well received. Bill has also been working with Jim Strang to continue our coaching clinics every second Sunday evening which have been very well attended. I am strongly of the view that these sessions are improving our organization at its very roots and I expect that we will see the product of these efforts in years to come.

Our fundraising is on track thanks in large part to the efforts of James and Mary Jane Joyce who continue to work miracles with our partnership with the Vancouver Giants. I am thrilled to report that James somehow managed to secure the final game of the Memorial Cup as our 50/50 night. Aside from being a large source of revenue, this promises to be a fun night for all. Check the website for more details in the near future. Ken Gordon has also repeated his successes of last year with the sponsorship program by securing sponsors for each and every one of our teams. There can be no doubt that Ken has single handedly turned this program around. George Georgeopoulos has negotiated a resolution to a negative ruling by the Gaming Commission which essentially shut down our use of 50/50 draws. They are now available to our teams once again and anyone interested should contact George for particulars of how to get a licence.

In closing, we have had many curve balls thrown at us this year and yet through the efforts of our wonderful volunteers we seem to be working our way through what is turning out to be an excellent season. Thank you for your support of the organization and good luck to all of our teams for the balance of the year.

-Ian Hayward

President

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## Important! New Rep Policies

Please review the following new policies if you are involved or wish to be involved in the rep programs:

1. Attendance at all rep tryouts are mandatory for rep hopefuls.

All players trying out for rep hockey must attend all rep tryouts. Tryouts are usually scheduled to commence in the third or fourth week of August. Players who do not attend all tryouts will forfeit their opportunity to play rep hockey for that season and will immediately be registered for C level hockey in their division.

Exceptions to this policy may include absences due to work related obligations (which will require a letter from their employer), sickness or injury (which will require a letter from a physician) and conflicting attendances at major midget or junior team tryouts. Absences arising from exceptional personal circumstances may be considered on an individual basis by the Director of Hockey Operations and the Vice-President of Rep Hockey.

2. Players self-releasing from rep will not be allowed to tr out again the following year.

If a player releases him or herself from the rep program and leaves theTbirds organization, he or she will not be allowed to try out for rep for the following year. This motion is effective retroactively.

# Sponsorships

Thank you to all our sponsors who helped raise over \$22,600 for vtmha 2006/2007 season.

<b><u>Rep Team Sponsors</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Andy Doyle - Nesbitt Burns</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Intrawest</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>a reliable process serving company limited</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>John Collais - Golden Capital</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Cyclone Taylor</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>The Game Plan</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Imperial Paving</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HSBC</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Okanagan Hockey School</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Stong's Market</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Windsor Plywood</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Finns Kerrisdale</u></a>
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<a href="#"><u>False Creek Collision</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Erica Mahon - City Sports &amp; Physiotherapy Clinics</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Hitfar</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>G-Max Sports Ltd</u></a>
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<a href="#"><u>Canlan Ice Sports</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Westbank</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Pane E Formaggio</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dueck GM</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Macgregor Studios</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>McDermotts Body Shop</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Specialist Referral Clinic - Richard Kendall</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Brian Velve - ReMax Crest Realty Westside</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Coastal Ford</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>CIBC Asset Management</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Mackenzie Heights Service Ltd.</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Nat's New York Pizzeria</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Lela Designs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ed Wong - Canaccord Capital</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Allan McGavin Sports Medicine Centre</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Groundwork Athletics</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Royal Canadian Legion Branch #177</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Forstrum Jackson</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Action Athletic Wear</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>V6B Design Group</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Cheapskates Holdings</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>George's Pizza &amp; Restaurant</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Regional Recycling</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Fletcher's Fabricare</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Amherst Veterinary Hospital</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Minerva's Pizza &amp; Steak House Limited</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>M&amp;R Environmental</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mad Ferrets Hockey Club</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>UCC Group</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Susan &amp; Peter Clayton-Carroll - ReMax Crest Realty Westside</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Kerrisdale Lumber</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Quattro on Fourth</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Re/Max Stuart Bonner</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Monarch Properties</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Calneva Financial</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Yankee Hat Minerals</u></a>

**Whenever possible, we would appreciate your patronage of our sponsors.**

**"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." - Sir Winston Churchill**

**For information on Sponsorship, please call 604-224-5891**

VTMHA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 21-27	PCAHA 30 <sup>th</sup> Annual Midget Scholarship Tournament
Feb. 4 – 10	PCAHA 25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Juvenile Scholarship Tournament
Mar. 2-6	PCAHA A & B “Final 4” Championship Playoffs: Peewee, Bantam & Midget
Mar. 10-13	PCAHA A & B “Final 4” Championship Playoffs: Atom, Juvenile
Mar. 8	Last VTMHA Goalie Clinic at Kerrisdale
Mar.16	Last day of regular ice for the season (practices & games)
Mar. 16-25	School Spring Break
Mar.18-23	BCAHA Provincial Playoffs - Peewee, Bantam & Midget
Mar. 15	Final Accounting of Referee monies due
Mar. 22-25	BCAHA Provincial Playoffs - Juvenile
Mar. 23	PCAHA Scholarship Program Application Deadline
Mar. 31 to April 1	PCAHA President’s League Championship Day – H1-H4, Atom & Bantam
Mar. 24-25	Hockey 1-4 Tournament
Mar. 30	Returning player registration email notification
Mar.31	Deadline for Dale Cheney Scholarship Applications
April 30	<b><i>Early Bird Registration DEADLINE</i></b>
May 3	AGM – time and location TBA
May 14	<b><i>DEADLINE for returning player registration</i></b>
May 15	Registration opens for new players



# PAST PRESIDENT REPORT

## ICE SITUATION

My personal wishes have been that our players have had an enjoyable beginning to this season, taking into account the many challenges that have been presented to them this year. We all know the ice times have been difficult for most of our teams and will continue to be a great challenge in the coming years. This report will focus on the ice situation now and in the future.

I have been dealing with the Vancouver Parks Board and the UBC ice situation for the past many years and many of you have heard a great deal over time. Once again, I want to update everyone regarding the future ice situation.

We have a set amount of ice allotted to our association decided based on the number of teams we have in the previous year. The Vancouver Parks Board ice allocation policy is readily available on their website with the city, but suffice to say, each division of player is allotted a specific amount of ice, which is certainly less than what we use for running our programs. For the 2006-2007 season I was able to negotiate an additional 19.5 hours of above entitlement ice to help compensate for the ice lost when UBC went down for construction. We have also been able to buy ice at Burnaby 8 Rinks and Great Pacific Forum.

This year we have asked everyone to be patient and work together so our players can all be on the ice, even though the times are certainly far from ideal. I want to thank everyone for their understanding of this situation. There was an honest attempt to spread the challenges amongst the members and not just place the burden on one group.

In the next few years with the changes and reconstruction of ice rinks around Vancouver and the limited ice at UBC, our association will see further challenges. I know everyone will work together to handle these challenges. I, along with the board members are well aware of what we need to do to make sure our children are on the ice.

### **What does the future ice availability look like for our association?**

The Ice Allocation committees for the Parks Board have been working on two options:

1. Killarney Ice rink closes for construction in the 2007-2008 season.  
This committee determined that 38 hours of minor sport time (sports groups traditionally using this rink) would be needed to reschedule at other ice rinks in our city. They have worked out a plan to use the 2006-2007 Above Entitlement ice times (the 19.5 extra hours from our time and other users), relinquished public skate sessions, presently unused ice slots, and reconfigure existing ice schedules at the remaining rinks to allow all the basic core programs to be accommodated. (Our program is a core program).

We are presently working with UBC to accommodate the 19.5 hours of ice at the new facility but we are not as yet certain how much ice will be made available at this venue as there are other parties in line ahead of our needs; UBC varsity, Intramurals, and Adult Hockey leagues. With the UBC ice, our programs will be run similar to this year with a few more challenges around ice times and specific teams placed onto specific ice rinks.

2. Killarney and Trout Lake ice rinks are closed at the same time for the 2007-2008 season.  
Approximately 79 hours of total minor sport ice will need to be accommodated if the two rinks have construction schedules which overlap the 2007-2008 ice season (September-March). The basic core programming will be short approximately 41 hours that will have to be accommodated using additional scheduling options, which may include the following:
  - a. Identify and use commercial user group times that commence prior 10:00 pm.
  - b. Identify and use available ice times outside of the existing schedule grids, such as early morning ( eg. 4:30-6:30 am) and late evening (11:00 pm-12:30 am) times.
  - c. Agrodome is reviewing their schedule to identify non-Vancouver based minor sport groups that have regular ice times at their rink.
  - d. Double up on practices where still possible.
  - e. Reduce ice entitlements of non-displaced groups by a maximum of 10 per cent (this is taken from a letter sent to the ice allocation users of the Vancouver Parks Board).

This information is based on the users of the closed ice rinks moving into the ice rinks that are still available. There is an attempt to move these users into the ice rinks that are closest to their areas, such as Sunset and Riley.

Of course, we would want the first option to be the one that is chosen, with Killarney ice rink closed and then re-opened before the Trout Lake ice rink is closed for construction but the decision has not been made, yet. This decision (as I have been told) depends on whether the city will pay a \$600,000 additional amount to keep one rink open and whether the Olympic committee sees the construction schedule for both rinks being completed on time. The members of the ice allocation committee and the staff that works with this committee are certainly lobbying for the first option. We will work with all parties to make sure we are on the ice.

Whichever option is decided upon, the association will work through these challenges and make sure a strong program continues, even if the ice is limited. We have the players best interests in our minds at all times.

### **What can our members do to help?**

Please support our efforts with UBC by attending their athletic events and letting them know we need to be part of the Winter Sports Center at UBC. Many of you are involved with the university and they need to understand that we are not just an outside community but we are members of their community and should be part of their new facility. As for the Vancouver Parks Board, if anyone has any additional involvement with the councilors or staff, they need to hear from us that shutting down two ice rinks at the same time is not the way to go for our community. We need to maintain our balance between working along side these groups and pressuring them to understand the needs of our children.

My hope is this report has given all of you a better understanding of the future ice challenges for our association and please be assured that we are taking these challenges very seriously. We have great confidence that we will continue to be a successful association and move forward with our continued improvements.

If anyone has any questions regarding the information presented in this report, please contact me at [pastpresident@vancouverbirds.ca](mailto:pastpresident@vancouverbirds.ca)

Most Respectfully Submitted by:

Gaye Collins

Past-President- VTMHA

## **VP ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT**

This has been a very busy first half of the season for me. We finally have our display trophy cases up at Sunset and Kitsilano ice rinks. Many thanks to Randie Mills for obtaining the glass for us at no cost and for all my friends at the Vancouver School Board for the fabricating of the cases. I would also like to thank my son Alexander for helping me polish trophies and glass for a week.

We just finished our Giants Night on December 15th. The Teddy Bear Toss was a huge success with the Thunderbirds earning \$8300.00 in one night. I would especially like to thank our President, Ian Hayward and his sons for stomping up and down the aisles and the Mascarenhas Family for being the top 50/50 sellers. All this is a result of a 4 year relationship that we have built with the Giants. A special thank you to Mister Paul Lucrezi of the Vancouver Giants for the support of the T-Birds.

Even though we are more than half way through the season, I have many projects on the go. If I can be of any assistance please feel free to e mail me at anytime.

James Joyce VP ADMIN.

## **VP HOUSE REPORT**

It is with great pride that I advise the board that the VTMA C divisions are declared by the PCAHA balanced. Top of my list of things that I wanted to accomplish was to balance the teams. As of December 1, 2006 I can declare this done.

I could not have done it without the hard work, dedication, determination of 4 very wonderful people; Karen, Bill, Bob and Mai, who deserve all the credit for accomplishing this task. Anyone that has been in this position and working with many different issues knows the amount of hours and patience this takes. I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart.

All house teams seem to be doing well and competitive within their division.

The Christmas tournament was a huge success. We had 60 teams ranging from the PeeWee B1 to the Atom house. We had many teams that enjoyed themselves and had great competition and some that came away with a banner. Thank you to all that volunteered to make this such a wonderful experience for all.

I look forward to seeing you all at the rink.

Take care

Debbie

## **VP INITIATION REPORT (Hockey 1-4)**

We are quite excited with how the year has been progressing so far, both on the ice and off the ice. Thanks to the head coaches and assistant coaches the kids are having a great time, learning a lot, and experiencing incredible success. Off the ice, working hard behind the scenes, have been the Divisional Managers and the Team Managers. Even with more Hockey 1-4 players than ever enrolled with the T-Birds, the managers have taken on all challenges and made things go so smoothly. The parents also deserve accolades for their commitment and teamwork, working incredibly well with the organization to ensure the best possible experience for the kids.

One of the huge success stories of the season has been the trial run of the "Intro to Hockey" program for new players to Hockey 3 and Hockey 4. I have heard nothing but great things from the parents in this group. Special thanks goes out to Jim Strang and his assistant coaches for the hard work with this keen group.

Jim has also hosted bi-weekly coaching clinics for the Initiation coaches. These practical sessions start with Jim leading the coaches (in full equipment) through a variety of skills and drills, followed by a hard scrimmage. Not only do the coaches get new technically sound drills to use the following week, they also garner a greater appreciation for how hard the kids have to concentrate and work to develop their skills.

Besides visiting various teams to either lead practices or provide coaching tips, Jim has also led the Power Skating "Skills Sessions." (schedule shown with under Skill Development Programs.) These sessions are highly attended, and it is during these times that we see the challenges that we are experiencing with limited ice availability. Regardless of the numbers, Jim still manages to work his magic, and the kids have a great time.

Our Initiation groups participated in the Giants night, have played at the intermissions of the Canucks, Giants, and UBC T-Bird games, and they have played in a variety of tournaments. Lastly, thanks to the leadership of Gord Maclean and the many volunteers who have stepped up, the initiation group is looking forward to hosting their own Tournament on March 24th and 25th.

Thank you again for your support,

Bill Juhasz, VP of Initiation

## **VP REP REPORT**

We started the Rep Program out on a good note in late August as we rolled out our new program at Magee Secondary School. For those of you that attended, it gave you the opportunity to hear, first hand, about our mission statement, vision/value proposition, core values, and commitment policy. For those of you that were unable to attend the meeting, I sent you an email of the complete presentation.

That night we also raised \$1,855.00 from the silent auction. I would like to thank Malcolm Norman at Bloodline for his extreme generosity, Cyclone Taylor for always being there when we need them, and the Game Time Gallery for their hockey memorabilia pieces. I would also like to thank Marlene Chow for all her help and continuing efforts with the Rep Program.

I am proud to say that I think this year's Rep Program has assembled the highest quality of committed coaches in the lower mainland. I would like to thank all the head coaches, assistant coaches, managers, and safety personnel for their outstanding efforts. Your dedication and commitment to the process is going to help the Vancouver Thunderbird Rep Program move to the next level.

This year all Rep teams received \$1,200.00 to help support their skill development /dryland and powerskating endeavors. I would like to once again thank all the coaches for organizing and ensuring that these vital components of our program came to fruition.

I'm sure all of you would agree that the tracksuits, jackets, and hats look fantastic. Although the logistics involved a lot of work, I think the efforts were well worth it. I would like to thank Linda Tay and Wendy Valdes for helping out. I would also like to thank John Xinios for his contribution for the hats and Sherwood Sports of Penticton for an unbelievable job and amazing turn-around-time.

Although I'm sure some people may disagree, we had numerous players and parents comment that this year's tryouts were better organized, more transparent and contained fewer conflicts of interest. Jim Strang, our Director of Hockey Operations, deserves a lot of thanks for his efforts in helping me improve this process. As this was a new position for both of us, we are honest enough to admit that we made a few mistakes. Jim has those issues well documented and will ensure that they are corrected for the 2007/2008 season.

Changing the direction and the focus of any organization is challenging and can be a taxing endeavor for everyone involved. We must be realistic enough with an organization of our size to realize that it is virtually impossible to be all things to all people and make everyone happy. I clearly recognize that there are families in our Rep Program that struggle with the commitment policy that was put forth. I would like to remind everyone that this commitment policy was developed from several meetings we had with a large percentage of our Rep coaches. My mandate was to build it and roll it out. These days I spend a considerable amount of time selling it to a small percentage of the overall Rep Program members.

I obviously strongly support the commitment policy that has been laid out but understand it doesn't work for everybody. Like all things that change, you're going to lose a few people along the way but you have to have some foresight and say, "Will our Rep Program be better off in the next two to three years because of this policy?" There's no question in my mind that we will have a better and more competitive Rep Program if we stay the course. However, if we, as an organization, are not going to honor and respect the commitment policy, then why bother having one?

One of the goals for our Rep coaches was to not lose our most talented players to the winter clubs. We felt that the commitment policy would go a long ways to helping solve this ongoing challenge that has been prevalent for years in our association. Some people, however, feel that we have gone too far with this policy. I certainly believe the coaches and I have approached this policy from a compassionate and fair point-of-view. The VP or Rep and our coaches understand that that education is paramount in our children's lives and have no issue with a player missing a practice because he or she had an important exam the following day. Our core values are surrounded by the word SUCCEED, which encompasses and prioritizes education.

The policy also permits players to miss games, practices, training sessions, and tournaments where there is an extenuating circumstance, such as family weddings, injuries, or sickness. What we are asking, in most cases, is that you plan your holidays around your hockey schedule. Many members believe missing hockey games, tournaments and tryouts for holidays is unfair to the players, coaches, and parents that have made the commitment to honor the policy.

As the VP of Rep, I am more than willing to discuss the direction of the Rep Program and the commitment policy with you. As I believe it is important to hear and understand both sides of the spectrum, please feel free to email me at [ken.gordon@cibc.ca](mailto:ken.gordon@cibc.ca), or call me at (604) 267-7100 to discuss your thoughts and opinions.

### **SUCCEED**

- Sportsmanship - Win and lose with dignity and class. You win as a team and you lose as a team.
- Unification - In understanding that the win and lose column isn't the driving force. It is all about the "Process". Winning at all cost is not what we are all about.
- Commitment - Stay committed to yourself, your team mates, the organization and the process.
- Cohesiveness - Recognizing that hockey, like a lot of things in life, requires individuals to come together and perform as a cohesive unit to succeed.
- Education - Education will be the greatest backup plan you will ever have.
- Enthusiasm - Hockey should be played for the love of the game with an overabundance of pride and spirit. Have fun. Make new friends.
- Determination - Having determination to bring passion, commitment, cohesiveness, sportsmanship and enthusiasm to the rink with consistency in an effort to be the best you can be. Quitting is not an option.

Respectfully,

Ken Gordon  
VP Rep

## **EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT**

This season has been a continuation of last season for me; a busy but fulfilling one.

First, I would like to congratulate Malcolm Collette for creating the winning Vancouver Thunderbirds logo. Not only is it a great design, but it has all the aspects of a logo for a strong, dedicated and proud minor hockey association – Vancouver Thunderbirds.

I have managed to put those new logos on to the jerseys of most of our rep teams, including the Juvenile team. I have to thank the Juvenile players and parents for being so patient, as there was an unforeseen delay in getting those jerseys to them.

I'm happy to report that our future stars in Hockey 1 and Hockey 2 have some brand new jerseys to wear. I hope that Thunderbirds will have the same type of numbers in those levels for years to come so that our association will grow stronger than ever.

As the season hits the mid-way point, I am now preparing to receive the jerseys and goalie equipment back. I wish to remind everyone in making the process easier, to please follow these simple rules when returning equipment:

- Wash all jerseys
- Hand in a list of assigned jerseys for your team with players names, phone numbers and if possible, e-mail addresses
- Hang all jerseys on hangers (hangers may be available at your favourite local dry cleaners)
- Have a list of issues with jerseys and/or equipment and attach it to the Equipment Tracking Form

I hope that all of the VTMHA teams continue to have fun, memorable and successful seasons and I'll see you at the end of it all.

## **DIRECTOR OF HOCKEY OPERATIONS REPORT**

The past six months have been very busy and rewarding for me. I came into the position willing to work hard and learn, and I have certainly done both. I am very encouraged by the fact that we have so many great families involved in our association. The amount of volunteer hours put in by coaches, managers, parents, siblings, and friends is remarkable. While many of us remember to thank our coaches and managers for their efforts, we often forget to think

of the members of the Board for their commitment. This job has opened my eyes to the reality of the time and energy provided by the Members of the Board. The Thunderbirds are blessed to have a Board that genuinely cares about the good of the association as a whole and for the individual members. Decisions are consistently made by asking the question: what would be the best for the kids? The next time you see a Member of the Board, take the time to show your appreciation.

In my position as Director of Hockey Operations, I have directed a lot of energy to player and coach development. I have skated with almost every player in the association, and I am pleased to report that we have many great coaches working for us and some very good coach candidates in our organization. The future looks bright!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or advice.

[director@vancouverfbirds.ca](mailto:director@vancouverfbirds.ca) GO THUNDERBIRDS!!

Jim Strang.

## Registrar's Report

DIVISION	AGE (on Dec31st)	# PLAYERS		# REP TEAMS		# HOUSE TEAMS	
		2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2006	2006-2007
Hockey 1	5 + 6	39	50			4	6
Hockey 2	6	38	76			4	6
Hockey 3	7	69	57			6	4
Hockey 4	8	53	65			4	4
Hockey 3-4 Intro	7 & 8	n/a	25	n/a		n/a	2
ATOM	9 & 10	149	132	2	2	8	6
PEEWEE	11 & 12	153	135	3	3	2 CHK 5 BCT	2 CHK 3 BCT
BANTAM	13 & 14	131	144	3	3	2 CHK 3 BCT	1 CHK 4 BCT
MIDGET	15, 16 & 17	235	205	3	3	4 CHK 7 BCT	3 CHK 6 BCT
JUVENILE	18, 19 & 20	17	23	1	1		
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>884</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>

# SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

## Goaltending Development

Again this year the Association hired the expertise of Sean Murray and their staff from *Pro-formance Goalie School* to head up this program for its 9<sup>th</sup> season. These sessions are open to all VTMHA goalies every **Thursday at Kerrisdale Arena**. The last day for this clinic is March 8, 2006.

## Power Skating and Skill Development:

These sessions are provided to our players in the Hockey 1 – 4 and Atom divisions on a weekly basis, continue to be successful and provide our players with assistance their hockey development.

All ice times fall on Fridays at 5pm @Kits Rink.

Jan. 19 - Hockey 4

Jan. 26 - Hockey 3

Feb. 2 - Hockey 2

Feb. 9 - Hockey 4

Feb. 16 - Hockey 3

Feb. 23 - Hockey 2

Mar. 2 - Hockey 4

Mar. 9 - Hockey 3

Mar. 16 - Hockey 2

## SAFETY REMINDER

All parents that go on the ice to assist a coach **must have** their coaching certification and have completed the Speak Out course. They will also need to be registered as a team official in order for the Association to have them insured and to meet PCAHA/BCAHA regulations as well as to avoid sanctions to the member or team from PCAHA/BCAHA.

## FUNDRAISING THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all Vancouver Thunderbird players and their families who bought and sold approximately \$38,000.00 of meat and sweets. The new on-line ordering system was a great success making ordering and recording data more accurate and time effective. We thank Southside Foods and The Pita Bread Factory for providing us with these excellent products. Fundraising for this hockey season continues, with socks still available and the Giants Game Dec. 15, 2006. T-Bird wear is still offered through Action Athletic Wear – 604-873-1801.

### Sales by Division

Midget	\$12,658.00 (honourable mention)	Bantam	\$5,069.00
Hockey 1-4	\$10,758.00	PeeWee	\$3,243.00
Atom	\$ 5,140.00		

- Highest team sales again this year: Midget C5 (\$3,582), \$100 winner. Thanks to coach Brian Underhill, assistant coaches and manager Susan Nicol- Smith.
- Second place: Hockey 2 C3 (\$2,351.00), \$50 winner. Thanks to coach Bill Juhasz, assistant coaches, and manager Lee Baxter.
- Honourable mentions: Atom C2 (\$2,054.00) and Bantam AAA (\$2,019.00). Thanks to all the teams, coaches and managers who supported and promoted this fundraiser.

## Sales by Players

- Highest sales: Thomas Kieffer (Atom C2), \$100 winner.
- Second place: again this year, Liam Baxter (Hockey 2 C3), \$50 winner.
- Honourable mention: Nick Mejia, Brandon Roney, Cam Burian, Liam O'Connor, Kevin Underhill, Pearce Eviston and Kevin Isherwood.

This year 142 players sold frozen food. Of these, 98 players had more than \$150.00 in sales and their names were entered in a random draw. The \$100 winner was Jonathan Ackerman (Hockey 2 C5). Thanks again to all the players who participated.

Many thanks to our volunteers who helped make this fundraiser a success:

- Our phoners: Resha Savanovic, Shelley Rettenbacher, Sylvie Lefebvre, Noelle Heppell, Ian Hanomansing, Christine Valk, Tracey Fitzpatrick, Judith Bird, Jennifer Egan and Kathy Rourke.
- Our volunteers who unloaded the delivery trucks, distributed food and provided car service: Dal and Michael Sandhu, Susan Nicol-Smith, York Hsiang, Jamie Innes and Gord McQueen, Alyson and Cameron McKendrick, Susan Dent, Matthew and Lindsay Veenstra, Lorene Morgan, Susan Sally, Shaun Cathcart, Susan, Ben and Cameron Porteous, Stella Tan, Andrew Mitchell, and Donna Mitchell Hedges. Honourable mention goes to Sandra Mills and Alyson McKendrick who worked with the on-line program.

Thank you,  
Hope Innes

604-732-1956 or [fundraising@vancouverbirds.ca](mailto:fundraising@vancouverbirds.ca).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

BCAHA, PCAHA and VTMHA (Dale Cheney Memorial Scholarship) offer scholarships for *graduating* Midget and/or Juvenile players/officials. Application forms as well as pertinent information on eligibility and qualifications is available through the Midget Division Manager for "C" players. Information is also available on the websites at [www.bcaha.org](http://www.bcaha.org) and [www.pcaha.bc.ca](http://www.pcaha.bc.ca) or call 604-205-9011. Closing date for PCAHA scholarship applications is April 1, 2005.

VTMHA set up a scholarship fund in the memory of Dale Cheney, a long time coach and Board member of our Association. Each year the association awards up to 4 - \$500 scholarships to qualified graduating players based upon above average scholastic ability, leadership, sportsmanship and character during their hockey career with VTMHA. You can find additional information on our web site at [www.vancouverbirds.ca](http://www.vancouverbirds.ca) or you can contact the office at 604-224-5891 or [tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca](mailto:tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca)

*Tax deductible donations can be made at any time to this fund by simply contacting our Administrator or Treasurer.*

## PCAHA 28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MIDGET SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT

PCAHA organizes an annual Midget Scholarship tournament for 17 year old Midget players. Participating players must meet a minimum academic standard and sportsmanship criteria to participate in the Scholarship team tryouts. Some Tbirds players are trying out for this team. Further information to follow.

## HOCKEY 1-4 SPRING TOURNAMENT

We are looking forward to our upcoming H1-H4 tournament March 24-25. There will be 19 Thunderbird teams and we are expecting 8 other teams to join, already 1/2 the spots are filled. This year we will be using all 4 of our home arenas with Kitsilano as the base of operations. This year will feature many of the same features from previous tournaments, but we will be including a silent auction with some fabulous items. The H1 and Intro teams will again highlight the tournament with their skills events. It will be a fun event for all.

Please remember volunteers are needed to assist in running these tournaments. Please contact your division manager to volunteer your time.

## Spring Hockey

Once again, mention must be made that *there is NO affiliation between any Minor Hockey Association and spring hockey*. BCAHA does not sanction hockey activities from May 1 – August 15th. All medical and liability insurance through BCAHA is null and void. *No spring hockey team may refer to themselves as the Vancouver Thunderbirds nor may they wear our association jerseys.*

## SUMMER MINI CAMPS

August 20 - 23, 2007 as we have done in years past, VTMHA will be putting on a summer mini camp. Please look for more information on our web site and when you register for next season.

## WEBSITE UPDATE

[www.vancouverbirds.ca](http://www.vancouverbirds.ca)

We are constantly updating our website. We are planning to have a Team Achievements page which will include many of our team's successes over the season. If you would like your team's achievements posted on our website, or would like to provide us with feedback, please contact us by email at [www.tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca](mailto:www.tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca)

We are also featuring a new VTMHA Alumni page. Please take a moment to check out the accomplishments of some of our very own Vancouver Thunderbird Alumni.

## REGISTRATION FEES

For the 2007-2008 season we cannot forecast the fees at this time. We are still negotiation ice for next season. Once we determine how much ice we will obtain from UBC and any other sources, we will be able to determine our budget for the coming season. Further information will follow.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT REGISTRATION FOR NEXT SEASON!**

Once again this season, we will have online registration for returning players. You will receive an Evite to register in your email on March 30, 2007. If you do not receive the email by April 7, 2006 you should assume we have the wrong email address for you. Please email our office at [tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca](mailto:tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca) so we can obtain your correct email address or if you do not have access to email please call 604-224-5891.

Remember you must contact the office whenever any of your personal information such as email or address changes so we can contact you. If anything has changed since you last registered please contact the office at [tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca](mailto:tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca)

## **REP COACH APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR 2006-2007 SEASON**

The selection process for rep hockey begins this coming February. I know it's a little early to start thinking about the 2007/2008 season but if you're interested in coaching rep hockey, we need to know who you are. The deadline for receiving rep coach applications will be March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Interviews will be conducted in the first two weeks of April and the recommendations will be presented to the VTMHA board at the first meeting in May. Please contact me directly at 604-267-7100 or email me at

[ken.gordon@cibc.ca](mailto:ken.gordon@cibc.ca) if you have any interest or questions.

Ken Gordon

VTMHA VP Rep

## Contact Information

### VTMHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ian Hayward	604-731-5363	<a href="mailto:President@vancouverbirds.ca">President@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Past President	Gaye Collins	604-736-9545	<a href="mailto:pastpresident@vancouverbirds.ca">pastpresident@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
VP - Admin	James Joyce	604-264-7684	<a href="mailto:vpadmin@vancouverbirds.ca">vpadmin@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
VP - House	Debbie Campbell	604-327-1925	<a href="mailto:vp-house@vancouverbirds.ca">vp-house@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
VP – Initiation (H1-H4)	Bill Juhasz	604-266-9005	<a href="mailto:vpinitiation@vancouverbirds.ca">vpinitiation@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
VP – Rep	Ken Gordon	604-267-7100	<a href="mailto:vprep@vancouverbirds.ca">vprep@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Secretary/Treasurer	George Georgeopoulos	604-737-2820	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vancouverbirds.ca">treasurer@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Coach Admin	Trudy Hopman	604-731-5868	<a href="mailto:coachadmin@vancouverbirds.ca">coachadmin@vancouverbirds.ca</a>

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Equipment Mgr.	Chris Tay	604-739-7688	<a href="mailto:equipment@vancouverbirds.ca">equipment@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Fundraising	Hope Innes	604-732-1956	<a href="mailto:fundraising@vancouverbirds.ca">fundraising@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Ice Scheduler	Chantale Fournier	604-893-8653	<a href="mailto:ice@vancouverbirds.ca">ice@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Referee in Chief	Ryan Curr	778-846-2877	<a href="mailto:RIC@vancouverbirds.ca">RIC@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Registrar	Sandra Mills	604-224-5891	<a href="mailto:registrar@vancouverbirds.ca">registrar@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Risk Manager	Trudy Hopman	604-731-5868	<a href="mailto:riskmanagement@vancouverbirds.ca">riskmanagement@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Sponsorship	Ken Gordon	604-267-7100	<a href="mailto:sponsorships@vancouverbirds.ca">sponsorships@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Tournament Director	Shirley Campbell	604-327-1925	<a href="mailto:tournaments@vancouverbirds.ca">tournaments@vancouverbirds.ca</a>

### DIVISION MANAGERS

Hockey 1	Nandia Eliopoulos	604- 731-9158	<a href="mailto:h1@vancouverbirds.ca">h1@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Hockey 2	Diane Mar & Brian Pescitelli	604-731-8897	<a href="mailto:h2@vancouverbirds.ca">h2@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Hockey 3	Victoria Chan	604-327-9386	<a href="mailto:h3@vancouverbirds.ca">h3@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Hockey 4	Gord Maclean	604-736-6448	<a href="mailto:h4@vancouverbirds.ca">h4@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Atom	Karen Cooke	604-266-6368	<a href="mailto:atom@vancouverbirds.ca">atom@vancouverbirds.ca</a>

Peewee	Bill Veenstra	604-221-5321	<a href="mailto:peewee@vancouverbirds.ca">peewee@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Bantam	Bob Macleod	604-879-9233	<a href="mailto:bantam@vancouverbirds.ca">bantam@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Midget	Mai Watson	604-266-6456	<a href="mailto:midget@vancouverbirds.ca">midget@vancouverbirds.ca</a>

**SUPPORT STAFF**

Director of Hockey Operations	Jim Strang	604-463-8009	<a href="mailto:director@vancouverbirds.ca">director@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Administrator	Sandra Mills	(p)604-224-5891 (f)604-224-5892	<a href="mailto:tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca">tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca</a>
Goalie Development	Sean Murray		<a href="mailto:goalie@progoal.com">goalie@progoal.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.progoal.com">www.progoal.com</a>