



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2008-2009

FUN AND FAIR PLAY FOR ALL

Vancouver Thunderbirds Minor Hockey Association #170 – 4438 West 10th Avenue Vancouver
B.C. V6R 4R8 CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.vancouverbirds.ca

President's Message:

With the holiday season behind us now, it is time to reflect on the season thus far.

Thunderbird teams have had successes at all levels. I would like to thank all our coaches and managers for the countless hours they put in to make all our children's minor hockey experience great.

I would like to congratulate Cody Gordon and Justin Lee for being selected to the BC Best Ever U16 team. This is quite an achievement and we wish them well in the upcoming competition in Salmon Arm.

I would also like to congratulate head coach Mike Todd, assistant coach Tim Roux and the players on the Midget A2 team for winning the prestigious Herb House Midget rep tournament as well as an earlier tournament in Revelstoke. I would like to wish them luck in their upcoming tournament in Colorado.

I am very excited as are many others in this association about the first annual Thunderball. This is a huge endeavour and requires the work of countless volunteers. But it is quickly becoming one of our major fundraisers of the year. Speaking of fundraisers, thanks to Betty Pantazis and Hope Innes for their efforts with our popular meat and pie fundraiser. Thanks to the Bantam A1 team for helping unpack all the meat and pies

We had a Giants night fundraiser just before the holiday break. We managed to sell over 1300 tickets to this event as well as receiving the proceeds of the 50/50. Thanks to James Joyce and to the many volunteers that helped make this night as successful as it was. We are also hoping to host another Giants night during the playoffs.

Good luck to all the teams for the balance of the season. If you have any questions or ideas to help improve the way anything is done, please contact me.

- George Georgeopoulos, President

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VTMHA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 18-24 PCAHA 32nd Annual Midget Scholarship Tournament
- Feb. 1 - 7 PCAHA 25th Annual Juvenile Scholarship Tournament
- Feb. 27 - PCAHA A & B "Final 4" Championship Playoffs: Peewee,
Mar. 3 Bantam & Midget
- Mar. 6 - 10 PCAHA A & B "Final 4" Championship Playoffs: Atom, Juvenile
- Mar. 13 Last VTMHA Goalie Clinic at Kitsilano
- Mar.13 Last day of regular ice for the season (practices & games)
- Mar. 13-23 School Spring Break
- Mar.15-20 BCAHA Provincial Playoffs - Peewee, Bantam & Midget
- Mar. 15 Final Accounting of Referee monies due
- Mar. 19-22 BCAHA Provincial Playoffs - Juvenile
- Apr. 3 PCAHA Scholarship Program Application Deadline
- Mar. 28-29 PCAHA President's League Championship Day – H1-H4, Atom,
Peewee & Bantam
- Mar. 20-22 Hockey 1-4 Tournament
- Mar.31 Deadline for Dale Cheney Scholarship Applications
- April 1 Returning player registration email notification
- April 30 ***Early Bird Registration DEADLINE***
- May 7 (tentative) AGM – time and location tba
- May 14 ***DEADLINE for returning player registration***
- May 15 Registration opens for new players



2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	George Georgeopoulos	778-861-8651	president@vancouverbirds.ca
Past President	Ian Hayward	604-731-5363	pastpresident@vancouverbirds.ca
VP - Admin	James Joyce	604-264-7684	vpadmin@vancouverbirds.ca
VP - House	Debbie Campbell	604-327-1925	vphouse@vancouverbirds.ca
VP – Initiation (H1-H4)	Bill Juhasz	604-266-9005	vpinitiation@vancouverbirds.ca
VP – Rep	Karen Cooke	604-266-6368	vprep@vancouverbirds.ca
Secretary/Treas	Norman Tsui	604-836-4987	treasurer@vancouverbirds.ca
Coach Coordinator	Kevin White	604-408-7588	coachcoordinator@vancouverbirds.ca

2006-2007 APPOINTED POSITIONS

Equipment Mgr.	Chris Eliopoulos	604-731-9158	equipment@vancouverbirds.ca
Fundraising	Hope Innes Betty Pantazis	604-732-1956 604 731-3266	fundraising@vancouverbirds.ca
Ice Scheduler	Natasha Breland	604-291-7777	ice@vancouverbirds.ca
Referee in Chief	Jacob Hill	778-885-4152	RIC@vancouverbirds.ca
Registrar	Sandra Mills	604-224-5891	registrar@vancouverbirds.ca
Risk Manager	Trudy Hopman	604-731-5868	riskmanagement@vancouverbirds.ca
Sponsorship	Eddy Mascarenhas	604-689-5458	sponsorships@vancouverbirds.ca
Tournament Director	Judith Bird	604-833-8019	execdirector@vancouverbirds.ca

DIVISION MANAGERS

Hockey 1	Nandia Eliopoulos	604- 731-9158	h1@vancouverbirds.ca
Hockey 2	Nicole Novak and Danna Marks	604- 264-8497 604-689-9881	h2@vancouverbirds.ca
Hockey 3	Julie Chapman	604-266-9224	h3@vancouverbirds.ca
Hockey 4 and H3/H4 Intro	Adrienne Atherton/ Darren Horne	604-267-7447	h4@vancouverbirds.ca
Atom	Christine Lee	604 263-3171	atom@vancouverbirds.ca
Peewee	Chris Redston	604-763-3463	peewee@vancouverbirds.ca
Bantam	Bill Veenstra	604-221-5321	bantam@vancouverbirds.ca
Midget	Mai Watson	604-266-6456	midget@vancouverbirds.ca

SUPPORT STAFF

Director of Hockey Operations	Jim Strang	604-218-9590	director@vancouverbirds.ca
Executive Director	Adam Hayduk	604-839-6731	execdirector@vancouverbirds.ca
Administrator	Sandra Mills	(p)604-224-5891 (f)604-224-5892	tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca
Goalie Development	Sean Murray		goalie@progoal.com Website: www.progoal.com

VP ADMINISTRATION REPORT

We are in the end of our hockey schedule. Again it has been a busy year. We had a great Giants Night. Many thanks to those that offered to volunteer. To the many that we were unable to use this last time, hopefully in the future another game will happen and we will still be able to count on you.

By the next season all our new T-bird jerseys will be ready. Many thanks to Chris our equipment manager and Adam our Executive Director for a job well done. Many thanks to Hope, Betty and Allyson for the meat and pies this year. Another money maker. I wish you all a great finish to the season. As usual, a big thank-you to Sandra our office Administrator who makes it all click.

James Joyce, VP Administration

VP HOUSE REPORT

As we are past the half way mark of the season. I am proud once again to report that the VTMHA was declared balanced in all Divisions from Atom through Midget. We try our very best each and every year, however, it is a difficult process and sometimes children and families are not kept on the same teams. This year was great, and as we were balanced, everyone was on set teams prior to picture day.

To the Division Managers Chris Lee, Chris Redston, Bill Veenstra and Mai Watson, without their help my job would be an overwhelming task. Many many thanks to them.

I would like to say a special thank you to George Georgeopoulos who always makes working on the board real, and to know that our job is totally for the kids.

Many thanks to Karen Cooke, who represents, the true meaning of 'volunteer' by continuing to give back to our association even long after her kids are no longer involved. There are many who could learn much from Karen about volunteering.

2009/2010 may present many challenges for minor hockey and I hope that everyone, as always, will be positive and helpful in the year to come.

Have a great rest of the season!

Debbie Campbell

VP INITIATION REPORT (Hockey 1-4)

We're having a great hockey season in Initiation. Our regular season games and practices are flowing, hockey tournaments are happening, and skill sessions with Jim are very popular. It is busy-busy-busy, but in the best way possible. Although our emphasis continues to be on fun and skill development, our teams in Hockey 2 through Hockey 4 are also enjoying a lot of success on the scoreboard. Of the 13 teams and 52 games that were recently played in the Odlum-Brown Richmond/Seafair Hockey Tournament, our T-Bird teams won all but two games.

On January 31st, Thunderbird parents from all divisions will be dancing up a storm at the Thunderball. A ton of preparation has gone into this event and thanks goes out to all the volunteers who are making this event possible. After the 31st there will two types of T-Bird parents: those who went to the party, and those who wish they had. To avoid disappointment, go onto the VTMHA website and buy your tickets now before they're gone. Hope to see you there.

Why is our season going so well? Once again, it is the volunteers that are making it the season that it is. Thanks to the head coaches and assistant coaches, the kids are having a great time, developing quickly, and experiencing incredible success. Off the ice, working hard behind the scenes, have been the Divisional Managers and the Team Managers. Their leadership has been instrumental in ensuring that our season starts smoothly and continues to be smooth. The parents also deserve accolades for their commitment, patience and teamwork, working incredibly well with the organization to ensure the best possible experience for the kids.

The next challenge for our organization will be the preparation for our own 21st Annual Initiation Tournament that will be held March 20th-27th. Special thanks to Jon Little for leading us, and thank you in advance to the parent volunteers who I know will step up to do their part in ensuring that this year's tournament is the best one yet.

Continually grateful for your support,
Bill Juhasz,

DIRECTOR OF HOCKEY OPERATIONS REPORT

This is my third season as Director of Hockey Operations and it has been both challenging and rewarding. I have been on the ice almost every day and I am seeing the results of our hard working players and coaches. As well, I have attended numerous games and I remain very impressed with the behavior of our players, coaches and parents. While this has been a very positive season for me, I do have a couple of disappointments; the fact that I am not as available for team practices as in past years, and our inability to schedule a weekly coach session. Still, I am very pleased with our efforts thus far and I am excited for what the future holds.

I have enjoyed the weekly initiation skills sessions, which have been very well attended. Not only do we fill the ice with eager and talented players, we regularly have an excellent turn-out of coaches who help keep the players moving. I want to thank the many coaches who come out to help and especially to Bill Juhasz and the Division Managers who have succeeded in making our H1 – H4 division a well oiled machine. I have truly enjoyed receiving contact from other associations admonishing me for sending our “stacked” teams out to compete with theirs!

As well, the Atom skills sessions have been well received and we consistently see a good turn out. The fact that so many players are willing and able to attend an optional 6:00 am practice is terrific! Thank you to the coaches who attend and help on the ice. I have attended a number of Atom practices and games and I get regular requests from coaches asking for my help. While there are a few teams whose practices I have not attended, I remind everyone that the Tuesday and Wednesday skills sessions are an excellent opportunity for player and coach development.

I will post on the web-site my availability to help at team practices and games. Basically, I am not available Monday, Thursday and Saturday evenings as well as Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Thank you to Sandra Mills, Adam Hayduk, all the Board Members and Division Managers and all of the numerous volunteers whose contribution has succeeded in keeping the Vancouver Thunderbird organization very respected in the hockey community. I am proud to be the Director of Hockey Operations, and I look forward to many more seasons with Vancouver Thunderbirds.

See you at the Thunderball!

Jim Strang

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Leading up to the start of the 2008/09 season, the VTMHA staff and board planned and implemented a few new ways of doing things.

(1) When planning for the 2008 Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey School, we recognized that 1.25 hour hockey school sessions during the middle of the day might not be very accommodating especially with parents’ work schedule, even though it is summer. We adjusted the format, offering half and full day sessions during the day and the 1.25 hour sessions in the evenings. Jim Strang oversaw the half and full day sessions and then was on the ice instructing the 1.25 hour evening sessions. We had a great response from families as was reflected by the outstanding registration we had across the board. When everything was said and done, we were able to raise approximately \$20,000 more for our association than in

previous years. We implemented a feedback process after the hockey school and will use the anonymous feedback that was shared with us to make the 2009 Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey School even better!

(2) Again, using feedback from our membership, we moved Rep Tryouts to the first week in September, allowing those families that choose to take family vacations just prior to the new school year to do so. We implemented the BC High Performance method of selecting teams. This method utilizes three initial ice times to group players into the various pools. Once those pools are selected, each head coach is given another two weeks of practices and games to select their final teams. During the first phase of tryouts, I'd like to extend a huge thanks to Jim Strang who oversaw all the Thunderbird evaluators and the non-Thunderbird evaluators that were hired to ensure the integrity of the tryout process. Karen Cooke and I recorded all the player ratings by each evaluator and also made sure players were being evaluated fairly. When tryouts were completed, I'd say that the process went as perfectly as once could have wished, we provided several opportunities for feedback to be given to players along the way, and minimized the number of times that one player would be "cut" in the selection process. We will continue to use the BC High Performance method of selecting teams as it is the most efficient and fairest way of selecting teams.

(3) In planning for the coming season, we made several adjustments to the season schedule. More games were scheduled back-to-back making it easier for our officiating department. Now, officials have more ability to take games where they can do two or three games in a row. This makes it worth the officials' efforts as well as makes it easier for the parents that transport the officials. As this season has been rolling along, I have continued to make notes about the schedule to make it even better for next season.

(4) Congratulations to Cam Corea, one of our senior officials and officiating coach, who officiated his first regular season Junior B game at the end of December. Also, congrats to Jacob Hill, our Referee In Chief, who was selected to officiate the PIJHL Junior B All Star Game on January 12th hosted by the Mission Ice Breakers. Thank you both for your contributions to our officiating program and congratulations on your personal achievements so far this season.

(5) We cannot go without recognizing Justin Lee and Cody Gordon for being selected to the BC High Performance Program during the Zone 5 U16 tryouts held in Aldergrove from January 2-4, 2009. They will represent the Thunderbirds at the U16 BC Cup in Salmon Arm in mid-April, competing against the top 160 kids in the province born in 1994. Furthermore, two other Vancouver Thunderbird team officials were selected to participate in the tryout weekend. Jason Lindner, assistant coach on the Bantam A2 team, and Harrison Brown, head coach of the Pee Wee C6 team, were on-ice instructors for the practice ice times and bench staff during the scrimmage games. Both Jason and Harrison did a great job and represented the Vancouver Thunderbirds with extreme professionalism.

(6) The Initiation Program and the rapid development and success of our association's younger teams were topics of conversation at the U16 BC High Performance weekend. Many minor hockey coaches, WHL scouts, and personnel from local junior teams, were commenting on and asking about our development programs and strategies. The hockey community has noticed how much stronger we have gotten in such a short time. As the players move through

initiation and into the higher levels, the Vancouver Thunderbirds are committed to providing successful player and team development. We have already started to recruit and search for qualified, non-parent coaches for next season with skill development expertise. In the meantime, we'd like to encourage any and all parents to forward names of coaching candidates for all levels, especially for rep. Jim Strang or I would gladly follow-up with any introductions that are made. We want our players to realize that they can experience individual and team success while being a Thunderbird in the coming years. We are committed to that goal.

Should anyone wish or need to contact me directly, please don't hesitate to email me at execdirector@vancouverbirds.ca or call 604.839.6731.

We hope that the rest of the season will be memory-filled.

Adam Hayduk

Executive Director

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DIVISION	AGE (on Dec31st)	# PLAYERS		# REP TEAMS		# HOUSE TEAMS	
		2007- 2008	2008- 2009	2007- 2008	2008- 2009	2007- 2008	2008 - 2009
Hockey 1	5 + 6	50	61			4	4
Hockey 2	6	61	60			4	4
Hockey 3	7	66	59			5	4
Hockey 4	8	75	86			5	6
Hockey 3- 4 Intro	7 & 8	31	26			2	2
ATOM	9 & 10	133	162	2	2	6	8
PEEWEE	11 & 12	149	146	3	3	2 CHK 4 BCT	2 CHK 4 BCT
BANTAM	13 & 14	142	132	3	3	2 CHK 4 BCT	2 CHK 3 BCT
MIDGET	15, 16 & 17	174	157	3	3	2 CHK 5 BCT	1 CHK 5 BCT
JUVENILE	18, 19 & 20	24	22+9	1	1		Joint team with Van Minor
TOTALS		905	911+9	12	12	45	44+JT

REGISTRATION FEES

For the 2009-2010 season we cannot forecast the fees at this time. Once we determine our budget for the coming season we will update you

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT REGISTRATION FOR 2009-2010

Once again this season, we will have online registration for returning players. You will be contacted by email by March 30, 2008 with information on how to register. If you do not receive the email by April 7, 2008 you should assume we have the wrong email address for you. Please email our office at 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.

The Early Bird Deadline will be April 30. If you register before April 30, you will save \$50.00 New player registration will begin on May 15 so be sure to register by May 14, otherwise, your spot could be taken by a new player. Goalies especially should register early. Spots will be dependant on the number of skater registrations. We can only have 2 goalies per team, maximum.

****New**** If you wish to register a sibling of a 2009-2010 returning player for the coming season, please be sure to log on to our registration webpage and sign up online on the waitlist. This will give priority to siblings who sign up on the waitlist prior to the New Player Registration start date. Girls no longer have priority registration.

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

COACH CLINICS/HCSP/SPEAKOUT

Two more clinics have been added for January. Speakout Jan. 29 and HCSP Jan. 31. These qualifications won't take effect until next season but you could get a jump start by taking them now. Use this link to register: <https://dev.hockeycanada.ca/cliniclist.aspx?oid=3>

Those coaches who attended Coach Clinics in 2007-2008 or 2008-2009 who have not submitted their completed workbooks please contact Kevin White at coachcoordinator@vancouverbirds.ca or Jim Strang at director@vancouverbirds.ca to arrange to turn them in.

FUNDRAISING THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who purchased these delicious products and supported our T-Bird Frozen Food Fundraiser. Congratulations to our winners this year:

Highest Individual Sales:

1st prize \$100 to Mathew Keifer, H3 - C3 (total sales \$1454.00)

2nd prize \$50 to Liam O'Connor, Atom C5 (total sales \$941.00)

Highest Team Sales:

1st prize \$100 to Atom C5, (total sales \$1854.00)

2nd prize \$50 to H3 - C3, (total sales \$1605.00)

Random Draw Winner:

\$100 prize, Pee Wee A2, Ryan Mills

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped to make this fundraiser a success. Thanks to all the volunteers who made the reminder phone calls, those who helped hand out the food and others that helped unload the truck (Bantam A1)

Betty Pantazis fundraising@vancouverbirds.ca.

PHOTO RE-TAKE DAY

Photo Retake Day has been set for Saturday, January 24th at Kerrisdale Arena starting at 7:30am and ending at 8:00am. Both team and individual photos can be scheduled. Please have the team or individual email me at execdirector@vancouverbirds.ca to confirm a team's or child's attendance.

REP COACH SELECTION 2009-2010

Applications for coaching a rep team are now being accepted. The application forms can be found Team Officials/Coaches webpage <http://www.vancouverbirds.ca/team-officials/coaches>

While no coaching position is guaranteed, we have a strong corps of qualified coaches already in place. Those coaches already coaching for Tbirds and those interested in taking on this challenging role in the 2009/2010 season can download the application form and forward it to Jim Strang, the Director of Hockey Operations. Interviews will be arranged soon after and we hope to have most of our rep coaches secured well before the next season.

Where possible, independent coaches will be used in the Head Coach positions. Parent coaches will be considered but must be the superior choice. All head and assistant coaches for Pee wee and above must have Developmental One coaching certification by December 1st, 2009.

Any questions or concerns? Please contact Jim Strang director@vancouverbirds.ca or Karen Cooke vprep@vancouverbirds.ca

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 it's 10th season. These sessions are open to all VTMHA goalies check the Divisions/Goalies tab on our website for schedules.

Power Skating and Skill Development: These sessions which 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 in their hockey development.

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.

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.net and www.pcaha.bc.ca or call 604-205-9011. Closing date for PCAHA scholarship applications is April 3, 2009.

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 or you can contact the office at 604-224-5891 or tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca

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

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

VTMHA will be putting on summer mini camps again this coming season. Please look for more information on our registration web site soon and watch for the opportunity to sign up when you register for next season online.

VTMHA TOURNAMENTS

The 2009 Thunderbirds Spring Hockey Tournament is set to go on March 20 to 22, 2009. This years tournament is sponsored by Adco Pools and Southlands Insurance. The committee has been working hard to ensure that the H1 to H4 kids have another great hockey experience. Thanks to everyone involved. I am sure there will be some great games amongst the 34 teams entered. This will be the last chance for many of H4 coaches to battle and the first tournament for the H1 kids to experience. The schedule will be posted and we encourage anyone still in town to try and make it to the H1 games. It is some of the best hockey there is to watch, massive (accidental) hits and lots of breakaways.

Jon Little, H1-H4 Tournament Director

ThunderBall 2009

Dinner-Dance Auction Fundraiser January 31, 2009

Thank you to all who have shown tremendous support and enthusiasm for this inaugural event by purchasing tickets and making great donations! This event is soon upon us, and is already on its way to be a huge success due to the efforts of the many volunteers, sponsors and donors. If you have not yet bought tickets, made a donation or offered to volunteer, it is not too late to ensure that you do not miss out on what is sure to be the event of the year! The final deadline for team incentives for ticket sales has been extended to **January 23, 2009**. Teams will receive cash for tickets sold or sponsorship money raised. There are also cash prizes for the teams with the highest value of auction donations. Every donation, no matter how large or small helps!

See the ThunderBall website on the VTMHA website for more details

<http://vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1227737787982-4302/1132165078250-8851/>



Vancouver THUNDERBIRDS
presents

Martini bar
DINNER
SILENT AUCTION
Dance PRIZES

Sat. JAN. 31st, 2009
6:30PM COCKTAILS
7:30PM DINNER

Tickets: \$50 each
Dress: BUSINESS CASUAL

Team incentives for
ticket sales and donations
See
www.vancouverbirds.ca
For more details
(ONLY 500 tickets available)

Riverside Palace
14500 River Road,
RICHMOND B.C.

JOIN US IN SUPPORT OF
Vancouver THUNDERBIRDS
MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

DRINK RESPONSIBLY. DRIVE RESPONSIBLY.

THUNDERBALL 2008-2009 SPONSORS

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THUNDERBIRDS HOST MIDGET C SCHOLARSHIP GAME

The Vancouver Thunderbirds were pleased to host one of three games played in the 3rd Annual Joe Morellato Midget C Scholarship Tournament on Saturday, December 20th. The game took place at the new UBC Thunderbird Stadium and quite the production was put on for the Midget C Scholarship players. Congratulations to all the players that were selected to take part. Also special thanks to all the coaches that stepped up to coach, most of them Thunderbird coaches, to all those from the Thunderbirds and from PCAHA that made this event happen, and to UBC for donating the ice to allow such a special event to take place in our area. For further details here's the link: <http://vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1232738666000-4017/1200077974677-4851/uploadedFiles/1232738652890-0107.pdf>

VTMHA ALUMNI

Check out our Alumni page on our website

<http://www.vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1166635604718-8312/VTMHA-Alumni>

for interesting stories on "where they are now" If you can add to our collection, please email tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca so we can update our website.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Congratulations to the Tbird players who made the Greater Vancouver Canucks Midget Scholarship team: Declan O'Briain, David Wade, Jun Sung Park and Manuveer Mahil.

Congratulations Cody Gordon and Justin Lee!!!

The B.C. Hockey High Performance Program recently selected its Zone 5 U16 team. We are proud to announce that these 2 Tbird players were selected from the huge number of players that attended tryouts. Best wishes to them and their team.

VTMHA PeeWee C5 Team: The PeeWee C5 Spartans emerged as Champions in the 27th Annual Surrey PeeWee Checking Tournament over the 2008 Christmas holiday. Although the team started off the tournament with a disappointing loss, they redeemed themselves by winning their next 5 games. With each game, they grew stronger and more confident. Their defensive play was formidable, allowing only 7 goals in 6 games (they had 3 shut-outs, including the semi-final and final games). Their offensive play was lethal, outscoring all other teams handily. In fact, they finished the tournament with the best goals-for and goals-against. All coaches and parents are immensely proud of how the players really came together to become a true team. The team now begins 2009 in the top pool for PeeWee Checking, in the hunt for the President's League banner.



VTMHA PeeWee C6 Team: We began the tournament still quite rusty from the holiday break. We started off on the wrong foot losing 7-0 in our first of three round robin games. We were able to bounce



back in our second game with a 7-2 win. The round robin ended in disappointment when we lost a tight game to Ridge Meadows where the puck refused to bounce our way. Despite our shaky start we got rolling in the elimination round. We blazed a path to the final game scoring 25 goals in three games. We faced the home Coquitlam team in the final game. The game was tight and the lead changed hands several times until it was knotted at 4 late in the third period. Despite pressure from our opponents in the late stages of the game our defence stood strong and we scored the tournament winning goal with eight seconds remaining.

**If you wish to have your team's success included in one of our Newsletters, please email the particulars to tbirdhockey@vancouverbirds.ca*

CHARITY EVENTS

H4 Jr. Canucks:

Bottles and cans just clap your hands.....The H4 Jr. Canucks are having a bottle drive on January 25, 2009. All proceeds will go to Canucks Place so please consider helping us out. You can drop your bottles off between 1 and 4 pm at 5388 Cypress or email Angela Hicks at angela@angelahicks.ca to let us know you need a pick up. Then you can just tell us where you are going to leave them, like on the back deck, and we will swing buy and grab them. Thanks for helping a worthy cause.

Hockey for the Homeless:

Dear T-Bird Parents,

My children, Charles and Stella Rockel, both play with the T-Birds. When I'm not at the rink, I'm helping organize Vancouver's first annual Hockey for the Homeless tournament, which takes place on February 20 at UBC. Hockey for the Homeless is a national charity that held its first tournament in Toronto in 1996. Since then, it has expanded to Montreal and Calgary and raised more than \$2 million to fight homelessness. We're looking for players and corporate sponsors to participate in the 8-team Vancouver tournament, which will feature 12 Canucks alumni.

I've attached an information package on Hockey for the Homeless. There are three ways to get involved:

- 1) Register as an individual player for \$300. That isn't cheap, but the perks include a personalized jersey, a hockey bag, lunch, and a reception and dinner. Players also get to spend a whole day on the ice and in the locker room with ex-NHLers.
- 2) Become a sponsor. This is a great opportunity for your company to show that it cares about the community, and there are several levels of sponsorship starting at \$2,500. So far, our sponsors include Cadbury and Molson.
- 3) Donate a good or service (minimum value \$100) to our silent auction. Because Hockey for the Homeless is a charity, all donations are partly tax-deductible.

Here is a link to a TSN clip about the recent Calgary tournament:

<http://watch.tsn.ca/thats-hockey/clip117647#clip117647>

And here is a link to the player registration form for the Vancouver tournament. If you know anyone who might be interested in participating, please pass it on to them.

<http://www.hockeyforthehomeless.com/Vancouver/form.htm>

Click on this link for the January 15, 2009 News Release:

<http://vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1232736766796-0681/1132165078250-8851/uploadedFiles/1232736719687-2626.pdf>

Please be generous and help out in any way that you can. If you have questions, I am one of the media contacts for the tournament, so feel free to contact me anytime.

Thanks very much for your support.

Nick Rockel 604.730.2661

VANCOUVER GIANTS

A message from the Vancouver Giants

----- Original Message -----

From: Paul Lucrezi

To: 'James R. Joyce'

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 2:59 PM

Subject: letter

To VTMHA,

On behalf of the Vancouver Giants I would like to extend our thanks and congratulations to James Joyce and everyone at the Vancouver Thunderbirds who participated in the Giants Fundraising Night on December 14, 2008. To everyone who sold tickets, attended the game or worked the 50/50, we thank you for your efforts!

And certainly a special 'thank you' goes to James for yet another year of tireless work to make the night a success. We're proud to offer such a lucrative fundraising program, but without people like James to rally the troops, your association would never see such a great financial return. We encourage more people to get involved and put forth such a strong effort next time around – with more effort and involvement comes a greater return, and that benefits everyone in the association!

With over 1200 tickets sold, and a strong 50/50 total, the T-Birds have re-confirmed their place as an elite association in our ranks and have proven that a big effort brings big results. We hope that the large sum of money raised will spark even greater success the next time you host a Giants Fundraiser!

So thanks again to James and everyone who participated! I look forward to working with you again soon!

Paul Lucrezi
Director of Ticket Sales & Marketing
Vancouver Giants

Paul Lucrezi
Director of Ticket Sales & Marketing
Vancouver Giants

THE WINNING TRADITION IS HERE!