



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2009-2010

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.

Now with the Olympics here, we will have to focus our attention to try and save Riley Park Arena. It is the city's intention to demolish Riley Park Arena shortly after the Olympics. Please visit <http://www.rileypark.ca/surveys/community> and fill in the survey to try and save Riley Park.

I would also like to congratulate head coach Ryan Weber, assistant coach Russ Weber and the players on the Bantam A1 team for winning their division of the Victoria Racquet Club tournament. I would like to wish them luck in their upcoming Kamloops International Bantam tournament.

I am very excited as are many others in this association about the second annual Thunderball. This is a huge endeavour and requires the work of countless volunteers. This year's event was sold out and I would like to thank all of you who support this great event. In a very short period of time it has become one of the most popular and most successful fundraisers. Speaking of fundraisers, thanks to Betty Pantazis and all the other volunteers for their efforts with our popular meat and pie fundraiser. Thanks to the Pee Wee A1 team for helping unpack all the meat and pies,

We had a very successful Giants night fundraiser just before the holiday break. Thanks to James Joyce and to the many volunteers that helped make this night as successful as it was.

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. 17-23 PCAHA 28th Annual Juvenile Scholarship Tournament
- Feb. 19 - PCAHA A & B "Final 4" Championship Playoffs: Peewee,
Feb. 23 Bantam & Midget
- Feb. 26- PCAHA A & B "Final 4" Championship Playoffs: Atom, Juvenile
Mar. 2
- Mar.6 Last day of regular ice for the season (practice and games)
- Mar. 6-14 School Spring Break
- Mar.7-12 BCAHA Provincial Playoffs - Peewee, Bantam & Midget
- Mar. 11-14 BCAHA Provincial Playoffs - Juvenile
- Mar. 12-14 Hockey 1-4 Tournament
- Mar. 15 Final Accounting of Referee monies due
- Mar. 20-21 PCAHA President's League Championship Day – H1-H4, Atom C,
Peewee C & Bantam C at Richmond Ice Centre
- Mar.31 Deadline for Dale Cheney Scholarship Applications
- Apr. 1 PCAHA Scholarship Program Application Deadline
- April 1 Returning player registration email notification to go to members
- April 30 ***Early Bird Registration DEADLINE***
- May 6 (tentative) VTMHA AGM – time and location tba
- May 14 ***DEADLINE for returning player registration***
- May 15 Registration commences for new players



2009-2010 VTMHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	George Georgeopoulos	778-861-8651	president@vancouver
Past President	Ian Hayward	604-731-5363	pastpresident@vancou
VP - Admin	James Joyce	604-264-7684	vpadmin@vancouver
VP - House	Debbie Campbell	604-327-1925	vpouse@vancouver
VP – H1-H4	Bill Juhasz	604-266-9005	vpinitiation@vancou
VP – Rep	Bill Veenstra	604-221-5321	vprep@vancouver
Secretary/Treas	Mike Armstrong		treasurer@vancouver
Coach	Jon Little	604 266 5433	coachcoordinator@va

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Equipment Mgr.	Chris Eliopoulos	c: 604-862-	equipment@vancouve
Fundraising	Betty Pantazis James Joyce	604-731-3266 604-264-7684	fundraising@vancouver ertbirds.ca
Ice Scheduler	Natasha Breland	604-291-7774	ice@vancouver
Referee in Chief	Jacob Hill	778-885-4152	RIC@vancouver
Registrar	Sandra Mills	604-224-5891	registrar@vancouver
Risk Manager	Trudy Hopman	604-731-5868	riskmanagement@van
Sponsorship	James Joyce	604-264-7684	Click Here for
Tournament	Danielle Rockel	778-737-0302	tournaments@vancou

DIVISION MANAGERS

Hockey 1	Nandia Eliopoulos	604- 731-9158	h1@vancouver
Hockey 2	Nicole Shapray	604-742-0082	h2@vancouver
H3/H4 Intro	Mark Brown	604-961-5578	h3.h4intro@vancou
Hockey 3	Nicole Novak	604-689-9881	h3@vancouver
Hockey 4	Julie Chapman	604-266-9224	h4@vancouver
Atom	Betty Pantazis	604-731-3266	atom@vancouver
Peewee	Astor Ang	604-565-3961	peewee@vancouver
Bantam	Christine Lee	604 263-3171	bantam@vancouver
Midget	Jane Speakman (preferred contact by email)	604-222-2988	midget@vancouver rds.ca

SUPPORT STAFF

Director of Hockey Operations	Jim Strang	604-218-9590	director@vancouver
Executive Director	Adam Hayduk	604-839-6731	execdirector@vancouver
Administrator	Sandra Mills	(p)604-224-5891 (f)604-224-5892	tbirdhockey@vancouver
Goalie Development	Sean Murray		goalie@progoal.com Website: www.progoal.com
Strength & Conditioning	Groundwork Athletics Inc	604-685-7576	troy@groundworkathletics.ca

VP ADMINISTRATION REPORT

In another 6 weeks our season for most will be running down. Even with the juggling of games and practices I think the season has been a good one. Our Giants night was a huge success. We came close to a record amount of tickets sold. We managed to bring in ten thousand dollars. Thank-you to all the volunteers and teams that stepped up to the plate. Our fundraising had a excellent year. Thank-you to Betty and her crew for all the hard work. Sock sales went through the roof. Again thank-you to Betty for all her work. We continue to work in the equipment room. With all the equipment purchases in the last few years, we are very close to being caught up. A big thank-you to Chris E for his work in the cave. Jon Little and myself did sponsorship this year. Due to the lateness of starting this program, we will have to look further into this to try and improve it for next year. This will be a huge task as it could be a huge job. Please feel free to ask any questions or if there is anything I can do to help, please get in touch.

James Joyce Vice President.

VP REP REPORT

My thanks to all of our rep families and coaches for their patience and adaptability as we work through a season in which the regular rep schedule has been shifted dramatically in order to accommodate the Olympics. Overall, I think that most of us have been surprised at how far into the year we got before we saw significant impact on ice availability, but happy that we will be able to continue playing hockey right up to spring break. However, I am certainly looking forward to a return to normalcy next year.

After moving to September rep tryouts in 2008, we were forced because of schedule changes to start our 2009 rep tryouts in late August. I am anticipating that we will return to a September tryout schedule next year.

We are preparing – and hope to be able to circulate early in February– an online survey seeking feedback from those who participated in rep tryouts and on rep teams with respect to the tryout process and the rep experience generally. There will also be a separate coach evaluation process, which we do every year, seeking feedback on our rep coaches. That feedback is carefully considered as we make decisions with respect to coaches for the next year, so I would encourage all of our rep families to complete the coach evaluations.

We are now in our fourth year since the Association adopted a commitment policy for rep players, and asked its players to confirm their commitment in writing at the start of each year. While there have been occasional issues as to players and their families honouring this commitment, my sense is that overall the underlying concept is becoming part of the culture

of our rep program – especially among the younger players. I look forward to seeing what feedback we get on this topic in the upcoming survey.

As we look forward to next year, I would encourage all families whose children are considering trying out for rep teams to review the rep policy (Policy P9A – available on our website under Policies), especially the section on commitment, and have a discussion to determine how committed they are to playing rep. If you are going to do rep hockey – do it right. It's not fair to your teammates, your coaches, or yourself if you are not fully committed to your team, and if you are not attending all of the games and practices you simply will not learn and develop at the same rate as others on your team.

I was very disappointed this past year that we were unable to field a third Peewee rep team. We had planned for a rep team at this level, but simply did not have enough players trying out to field a team. I am hopeful that we will be able to return to a third team at that level in the coming season – but that will depend in large part on the numbers of players signing up for rep tryouts once registration begins.

Finally, my thanks to all of the hardworking coaches, managers and other team officials who have put so many hours into their work with our rep teams this year.

Bill Veenstra, VP Rep

VP HOCKEY 1-4 REPORT

Hockey 1 to 4 has enjoyed a good season so far, and like everyone else, we're adapting to unique circumstances while the Olympics are in town. Even though we've experienced a recent reduction in the amount of ice that we have become accustomed to, and have had to share the ice with more teams than we're accustomed to, not to mention getting a taste of what the older players typically experience with the 6:00am practices, we're rolling with it as well as can be expected.

I want to acknowledge the hard work behind the scenes of a number of volunteers. First, kudos goes out to our amazing Division Managers: Nandia Eliopoulos, Nicole Shapray, Nicole Novak, Julie Chapman and Mark Brown. We are extremely lucky to have such dedicated advocates for our players. I would also like to thank the Coaches and Team Managers. They have taken on all the challenges associated with the Olympic break and ensured that things went as smoothly as possible. Special thanks goes out to Ed Wong and the members of the Thunderball organizing committee who have put together yet another VTMHA community event that not only gets us all together to have a great time, but raises funds for our organization.

Something new this year has been the trial run of two additional "Intro to Hockey" programs for new players to Hockey 2, 3 and 4. Special thanks goes out to Mark Brown, who in addition to assisting these new players and parents to the T-Birds, he has also assisted me with my VP

duties. Thanks also to Jim Strang and his "Intro" assistant coaches for the hard work with this keen group.

The H4-C2 Terminators had an opportunity to feel like "pros" when they were selected from 450 submissions to Scotia Banks' Hockey Kids Contest to introduce Ron McLean on January 24th during Hockey Night in Canada. They were treated to an exciting afternoon with cameras, lights and action during the filming of their segment for the show. After many bloopers, outtakes, and a whole lot of cheering, the team gave all the right stuff for the show. It will be the highlight of their season and a memory the terminators will have for many years.

The next exciting thing for Initiation is our Annual Hockey 1-4 Tournament scheduled for March 12-14th. All of our Intro teams and Hockey 1 to 4 teams will be participating. Special thanks goes out to Danielle Rockel and Joanne Hunter for their leadership and organization.

Thank you again for your support,
Bill Juhasz, VP of Hockey 1-4

COACH COORDINATOR REPORT

First let me say a great big Thank you to all the Coaches, Assistants, HCSP's and Managers for all of your hard work. The volunteerism is wonderful and makes the whole thing work.

Now that all the qualifications are being tracked online it made it easier to see everyone's status, mostly this was good but it did cause a few surprises. Thank you to the coaches that discovered they needed to take a refresher and didn't complain too loudly. We got a ton of coaches through the courses this year and are in great shape for the future. There are still a few folks that have resisted having the qualifications and they are being removed from the rosters as you read this. We hate to have to do this but those are the rules.

For the coaches that took the HYBRID course, you need to get your workbook signed off by Jim Strang or me. You can email us at director@vancouverbirds.ca and coachcoordinator@vancouverbirds.ca and find a time to meet. Let's get it done ASAP.

The coaches that took the DEV 1 course will need to get their workbooks to BC Hockey for grading. In both cases, please make sure you have proof you sent it. That means scan and email it OR mail by registered mail. Don't take the chance that it gets lost in the regular mail.

I heard great things about Coach Jim's Monday night sessions for the coaches. If you missed them this year, keep them in mind for next as you will be sure to get a ton of new ideas.

The online Criminal Record Check worked well for the most part. A few challenges but certainly easier than attending the police station. We have sorted out a plan to get the last few

done and will be in touch with those last few this week. This is done for the protection of your children and it not optional.

Lastly please make sure you provide Coach Jim Strang with feedback on your coach when asked at the end of the season. This information really helps to ensure we have the best coaches possible.

Good luck to all the teams in their playoffs.

Jon Little

DIRECTOR OF HOCKEY OPERATIONS REPORT

Hello Thunderbirds. Beginning in August and right up to the holiday break, I was running basically non stop. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Mondays were marathon days and I want to thank the coaches who attended the Initiation, Atom, and Peewee skills sessions; their attendance and assistance was paramount to the success of the programs. This year, we added a second Intro 3/4 as well as an Intro 2 group and, as in past years, we have many involved parents volunteering as coaches, managers etc.

Going forward I have received the practice and game schedule of all of the T'bird teams and I will attend weekend and morning practices to offer my assistance. Coaches and managers should feel free to contact me to request my attendance or to discuss their respective team's current area of focus or concern.

We have managed to get the ice times below at the Robson Square Ice Rink downtown. It is a smaller rink without any glass around. The ice is enclosed by boards but since there is glass around the buildings, pucks cannot be used. These times could be used by initiation (or...?) teams to do power skating or just have some fun – maybe tennis balls or... Please contact me if you are interested in having your team skate on one of the following times:

January 30, 2010: 9AM – 10:15AM

January 30, 10:30AM – 11:45AM

March 6, : 9AM – 10:15AM

March 6, 10:30AM – 11:45AM

March 20, 10:30 AM

Thanks again to all of the coaches, managers, volunteers, board members, and to Adam Hayduk and Sandra Mills for all of their dedication and hard work; none of this would be possible without you!

Cheers,
Jim Strang

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

This has been my third season with the Vancouver Thunderbirds and it has been another challenging yet enjoyable one.

The season kicked off with our annual Vancouver Thunderbirds Summer Hockey School. Attendance during the four-day hockey school and the two and three day specialty clinics were very well received. Thank you to Jim Strang, Sandra Mills, and all of our on-ice instructors for a job well done. This time around we invited Thunderbird alumni players to help out on the ice. These young men were great with the camp participants and it was nice to see those that took flight to play junior hockey return back home and give back to our program. The Washington Capitals' Shaone Morrisonn, also a former Vancouver Thunderbird player, took time out of his summer conditioning regimen to spend a day with our hockey school. This was a special treat for the players and each ice time concluded with photo opportunities and autographs. Thanks to Jeff Churchill for helping arrange details and make it possible for Shaone to come out.

Once the season got under way and the teams settled into the season, many people began to talk about the Vancouver Park Board's and the City of Vancouver's decision that "*after 2010, the current Riley Park buildings will be demolished and returned to green space*", which includes the Riley Park ice rink. This is planned to occur after the 2010/2011 season. The Vancouver Thunderbirds were involved in a task force that took our concerns to the Vancouver Park Board making a case why it makes sense to keep the Riley Park rink in operation. Some of the reasons include:

- The last year in which a new ice surface was added to the inventory of rinks in Vancouver was 1976;
- The population in Vancouver has grown by 40% since 1976;
- Since 2003, minor hockey registrations in the City of Vancouver have increased by 9.1%
- Usable ice is now virtually 100% utilized in Vancouver;
- Since usage is at capacity, young players ages 9 and 10 have to practice at 6am (sometimes twice a week), VTMHA initiation and house teams have to share ice for practices whereas our neighboring communities with more rinks per capita can provide full ice practices for their minor hockey players, adult hockey league programs that are lucky enough to use city ice rinks are forced to begin their games at 11pm and sometimes 11:30pm (our adult hockey neighbors in Richmond and Burnaby have enough facility space to allow for the luxury of evening game times), and hockey users that live in the City of Vancouver are forced to drive outside of the city limits for extra hockey programs where there is ice available.

The Vancouver Park Board and the City of Vancouver are using a PERC study that was prepared in 2003 to validate their decision to tear down Riley Park. Using the PERC study's own findings in the report, it actually shows that the minor hockey community grew by 38%

from 1998 to 2003. This obviously reflects a significant gap in understanding the needs of the hockey community, of the ice users, and of our community that elects our municipal officials. If Riley Park is allowed to be torn down, the City of Vancouver will have one less ice rink then before all the upgrades to our facilities commenced 4 years ago.

Hockey Canada's *Frequency*, a weekly radio show created in partnership with The FAN 960 in Calgary, states that *"The equation is very simple – if there are no facilities, there is no hockey. According to a study done in 2005, close to 45% of Canada's rinks are past their life expectancy, but only 3% of today's rinks have been built in the past 10 years. Many rinks are in need of replacement or retrofitting, and Hockey Canada and the Hockey Canada Foundation have taken a hand-on approach to getting Canada's arenas into the 21st Century."*

At the conclusion of the presentation, not one commissioner spoke out in full favor of saving Riley Park.

If you wish to make your voice heard directly to one or all of the Vancouver Park Board's elected commissioners and share your personal stories of how little access to ice we have in comparison to other neighborhoods, please feel free to contact one or all of the commissioners:

AARON JASPER, Chair	(604) 512-6177	aaron.jasper@vancouver.ca
SARAH BLYTH, Vice-Chair	(604) 377-9415	sarah.blyth@vancouver.ca
CONSTANCE BARNES	(604) 375-1727	constance.barnes@vancouver.ca
RAJ HUNDAL	(604) 715-3096	raj.hundal@vancouver.ca
STUART MACKINNON	(778) 389-1956	stuart.mackinnon@vancouver.ca
IAN ROBERTSON	(604) 961-9059	igrobertson@telus.net
LORETTA WOODCOCK	(604) 377-3927	loretta.woodcock@vancouver.ca

On the Vancouver Park Board Commissioners' web page (www.vancouver.ca/parks/board/commissioners.htm), it states that *"The seven elected commissioners are responsible for the policy direction of the Park Board within the legislative framework called the Vancouver Charter. They set the vision and policy that guides the organization's services and programs and help staff deliver on the Park Board mandate to 'provide, preserve and advocate... to benefit people, communities and the environment'. They listen to residents and act as their voice to ensure Vancouver parks and recreation remains accessible and sustainable."*

The last civic election was held in November 2008. Park Board Commissioners are elected every three years, with the next election coming in November 2011.

More information is soon to follow about this issue.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for your patience and cooperation with the reduced Olympic ice schedule that is currently in effect. I am very pleased that due to our planning and proactive approach, we were able to:

- accommodate all initiation teams' home games by rescheduling the games before the reduction of ice;
- provide the ability for the majority of our teams to still be able to practice once a week; and,
- provide all of our atom through juvenile teams' with home game times that remained unchanged and will in place until the end of the season.

We have already distributed traffic and parking restrictions that will affect Riley Park (since this facility is extremely close to the proximity of an Olympic games venue). If you didn't see this notice, it has been posted on our home page (www.vancouverbirds.ca). We will continue to forward more notices if and when they become available.

I need to extend a special thank you to Natasha Breland for her help with the ice situation all season long. Also, congratulations are in order as Natasha recently gave birth to a beautiful 6lbs 1oz baby girl.

Should anyone have any comments or questions, as always, please don't hesitate to contact me at execdirector@vancouverbirds.ca or by phone at 604.839.6731.

All the best to our teams in their playoff runs!

Adam Hayduk, Executive Director
Vancouver Thunderbirds MHA

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DIVISION	AGE (on Dec31st)	# PLAYERS		# REP TEAMS		# HOUSE TEAMS	
		2008- 2009	2009- 2010	2008- 2009	2009- 2010	2008 - 2009	2009- 2010
Hockey 1	5 + 6	61	60			4	4
Hockey 2	6	60	59			4	4
Hockey 3	7	59	60			4	4
Hockey 4	8	86	72			6	6
Hockey 3- 4 Intro	7 & 8	26	34			2	2
Intro II – Hockey 2,3,4	6, 7 & 8	n/a	25			n/a	2
ATOM	9 & 10	162	182	2	3	8	8
PEEWEE	11 & 12	146	149	3	2	2 CHK 4 BCT	2 CHK 5 BCT
BANTAM	13 & 14	132	132	3	3	2 CHK 3 BCT	2 CHK 3 BCT
MIDGET	15, 16 & 17	157	158	3	3	1 CHK 5 BCT	2 CHK 4 BCT
JUVENILE	18, 19 & 20	22+9	19+6	1		Joint team with Van Minor	0
TOTALS		911+9	950+6	12		44+JT	48+JT

REGISTRATION FEES

For the 2010-2011 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 2010-2011

Once again this season, we will have online registration for returning players. You will be contacted by email by April 1, 2010 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 AS THERE MAY NOT BE ENOUGH GOALIE POSITIONS IN SOME DIVISIONS EVEN FOR RETURNING TBIRDS PLAYERS WHO WANT TO PLAY GOAL. 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

RISK MANAGER REPORT

Risk manager has nothing to report other than those who have not yet completed criminal records checks must do so.

Trudy Hopman

COACH CLINICS/HCSP/RESPECT IN SPORT (formerly Speakout)

Those coaches who attended Coach Clinics in 2009-2010 who have not submitted their completed workbooks please contact Jon Little at coachcoordinator@vancouverbirds.ca or Jim Strang at director@vancouverbirds.ca to arrange to turn them in. You will not be reimbursed for the clinic expense until your workbook has been received by BC Hockey and your Hockey Canada Profile has been updated to reflect the qualification.

FUNDRAISING THANK YOU...

Many thanks to everyone who purchased these delicious products and supported our T-Bird Frozen Food Fundraiser.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped to make this fundraiser a success we could have not done it without you! Special thanks to our Peewee A1 team who helped unload the truck, good job guys!! Another special thanks to our Executive Director Adam Hayduk who spent the morning helping unload the truck, filling orders and most of all thanks for putting up with us bossy females. Thanks Adam!

Congratulations to the following winners:

Highest Individual Sales

1st prize - \$100.00 goes to Mathew Kiefer, H4 – C5 with a total of \$1371.00
2nd prize - \$50.00 goes to Martin Pierce, Midget C5 with a total of \$1168.00

Highest Team Sales

1st prize - \$100.00 goes to Midget C5 with a total of \$2677.00
2nd prize - \$50.00 goes to H4 –C5 with a total of \$1400.00

Our random draw winner

\$100.00 prize goes to Ryan Watson Midget A3

Congratulations to everyone and thank you again for all your support this season!!

*Betty Pantazis & James Joyce
Fundraising*

OLYMPIC UPDATE

Access to Riley Park Community Centre Complex during the 2010 Olympics/Paralympics

RILEY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE COMPLEX PARKING

Please be advised that parking will be extremely limited for the period of February 1 – March 21, 2010. It is advisable that you walk or take transit as it will be impossible to guarantee parking. Hockey and Ringette teams may want to arrange for buses (or larger private vehicles/SUVs) to drop off and pick up players from the rink.

Parking will be restricted to users of Riley Park Community Centre, Rink, Pool and Fitness Centre. All patrons must register at the front desk of the pool or community centre. Parking passes will be issued on a daily basis for a two hour period. Please

advise the front desk staff if you intend to stay longer than two hours. Violators will be ticketed and towed. **Parking after regular hours will not be monitored but will be very limited as residents will not have street parking and will most likely use the Riley parking lot overnight.**

Patrons Can Obtain Parking Passes at Percy Norman Pool Office as Follows;

Monday – Thursday	6:15 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday	6:15 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Sat. and Sun.	9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Patrons Can Obtain Parking Passes at Riley Park Community Centre Office as Follows;

Monday – Friday	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sat. and Sun.	9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

ACCESSING RILEY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE COMPLEX

Please use 30th Avenue to access Riley Park Community Centre Complex.

ROAD CLOSURES

- Midlothian Avenue – Ontario to Yukon February 1- March 2 - Closed March 12-23 TBD
- Dinmont Avenue - Midlothian to Peveril February 1- March 2 and March 12-23 Closed
- Ontario Street – E. 29th Ave to E. 33rd Ave. February 1- March 2 - Closed March 12-23 TBD
- Peveril Avenue – Ontario to Dinmont February 1- March 2 - Closed March 12-23 TBD

PARKING RESTRICTIONS

- Ontario Street February 1 – 28 No Parking March 12 – 20 No Parking
- 30th Avenue and all other adjacent streets around Riley Park Community Centre Complex - No Parking Permitted February 12-28 and March 12-21

PHOTO RE-TAKE DAY

Photo retake day will take place on Sunday, February 7th at Kerrisdale arena from 730am until no later than 750am.

This photo shoot will occur in the lobby of Kerrisdale arena (not on the ice due to the reduced Olympic ice schedule). Players should arrive in full gear and should also bring skates.

I would like players and teams to email me and let me know of their intention to attend photo retake day so we can adequately plan to accommodate everyone. execdirector@vancouverbirds.ca

REP COACH SELECTION 2010-2011

Applications for coaching a rep team for the 2010-2011 season are now being accepted. Applicants should put together a resume of their relevant hockey experience and training and submit it to the Director of Hockey Operations, Jim Strang, at director@vancouverbirds.ca. Please also indicate the levels at which you would prefer to coach.

While the deadline for receiving applications is formally May 31, 2010, the policy provides for the Board to consider some recommendations at its meeting in early May. The interview process may begin shortly after the season ends and we would encourage all interested applicants to submit their applications sooner rather than later.

The criteria and process are set out in our Policy P10, which can be viewed on the website under "Policies". That policy also sets out the policy applicable to parents who are applying to coach teams that their own children will be trying out for. The Association gives preference to independent coach applicants, while at the same time endeavouring to find the best qualified, best suited head coach for each rep team.

All coaches must commit to completing the necessary certifications (for rep teams from Pee wee above, that includes the Developmental One clinic) by December 1.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jim Strang or Bill Veenstra (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 11th season. These sessions are open to all VTMHA goalies check the Divisions/Goalies tab on our website for schedules. Due to the Olympics and reduced ice availability, the skills sessions will end in December this season.

Power Skating and Skill Development: These sessions which are provided to our players in the Hockey 1 – 4, Atom and Pee wee divisions on a weekly basis continue to be successful and provide our players with assistance in their hockey development. Due to the Olympics and reduced ice availability, the skills sessions will end in December this season.

SAFETY REMINDER

All parents that go on the ice to assist a coach **must have** their coaching certification and have completed the Respect In Sport (formerly Speakout) 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

VTMHA INITIATION TOURNAMENT 2010

The 2010 Thunderbirds Initiation Hockey Tournament will be held March 12 – 14. This years tournament is sponsored by Greenscape Capital. The tournament committee, made up of tourney reps from each initiation team, has been working very hard all season to create a fantastic event for the kids. A huge thank you to all of our sponsors and all of our the volunteers.

The one area that we need every T-Bird parents' support is in Program Ad sales. Buying an ad in the tourney program helps support the T-Birds and gives you access to a huge audience in a program with a long shelf life (we know our older kids still have theirs from their initiation days).

Please contact us if you, your children's grandparents, your employer, your neighbors or anyone else you know are interested in buying an ad.

Joanne Hunter and Danielle Rockel, Tournament Coordinators

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 VTMHA participants in the 4th Annual Joe Morellato Midget C Scholarship Tournament which was held December 13 – 17, 2009. Two coaches from our Midget checking teams participated; Claude Pierce and Jonathan Reilly. There were also 11 players from VTMHA who participated in the tournament: Taylor Fargey, David Leitch, Matthew Catellier, Martin Pierce, Ben Boswell, Guramit Bhela, Ross Wilcox, Jordan Ayre, Malcolm McQueen and Cameron Porteous and Mark Addison who was awarded one of the 3 scholarships! Congratulations to all!!

Congratulations to the Tbird participants in the PCAHA Midget Scholarship Tournament: VTMHA Coaches Brandon Hart and Adam Hayduk represented the Fraser Valley Flames and Jonathan Reilly represented the Fraser Valley Oilers. Tom Nevill is manager of the Greater Vancouver Canucks and players: Michael Gee, Keiron Cobban, Patrick Escalambre, Kevin Isherwood, Eric Taylor and Fraser Titley played for the Greater Vancouver Canucks.