



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2007-2008

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.vancouvertbirds.ca

President's Message:

With the holiday season behind us now, it is time to reflect on the season thus far. Due to the civic strike, we had to endure the most difficult start to a season in Thunderbird history. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our players, parents and officials for their patience and understanding during that difficult time. Special thanks to our executive board members, division managers, Adam Hayduk and Jim Strang who helped get us thru that difficult time. The entire hockey community from Chilliwack to Whistler also helped by providing our teams, their ice times to play our home games.

We have just completed our Atom and Pee Wee tournament which was the largest ever with 63 teams. We had Thunderbird teams in the playoff rounds at all levels. The tournament was also very financially successful generating \$7,000 for our association. Many thanks to all the teams that contributed baskets for the raffle and the many parents that volunteered time at the raffle desk. The most popular raffle item was the Canucks framed photo. The Pee Wee C team that donated that raffle item will receive a pizza party.

I would also like to congratulate coach Dennis Chambers and the players on the Midget AAA team for winning the very prestigious Richmond Midget AAA international tournament. It is the first time that the Thunderbirds have won that tournament.

With most of our game conflicts having been resolved, we are looking forward to adding our very popular atom house skills sessions starting early January.

We have finally filled the ice scheduler position. The person that is taking on this task is Nathasha Breland. She can be reached via email address ice@vancouverbirds.ca

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

VTMHA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 20-26 PCAHA 31st Annual Midget Scholarship Tournament
- Feb. 3 – 9 PCAHA 25th Annual Juvenile Scholarship Tournament
- Feb. 29 - PCAHA A & B “Final 4” Championship Playoffs: Peewee,
Mar. 4 Bantam & Midget
- Mar. 7 - 11 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.16-21 BCAHA Provincial Playoffs - Peewee, Bantam & Midget
- Mar. 15 Final Accounting of Referee monies due
- Mar. 20-23 BCAHA Provincial Playoffs - Juvenile
- Apr. 4 PCAHA Scholarship Program Application Deadline
- Mar. 29-30 PCAHA President’s League Championship Day – H1-H4, Atom
& Bantam
- Mar. 27-30 Hockey 1-4 Tournament
- Mar. 30 Returning player registration email notification
- Mar.31 Deadline for Dale Cheney Scholarship Applications
- April 30 ***Early Bird Registration DEADLINE***
- May 3 AGM – time and location tba
- May 14 ***DEADLINE for returning player registration***
- May 15 Registration opens for new players



2007-2008 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	vpouse@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	604-732-1956	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	Adam Hayduk	604-839-6731	execdirector@vancouverbirds.ca

DIVISION MANAGERS

Hockey 1	Nandia Eliopoulos	604- 731-9158	h1@vancouverbirds.ca
Hockey 2	Julie Chapman	604-266-9224	h2@vancouverbirds.ca
Hockey 3	Adrienne Atherton/ Darren Horne	604-267-7447	h3@vancouverbirds.ca
Hockey 4 and H3/H4 Intro	Victoria Chan	604-327-9386	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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our families. I hope everyone has enjoyed themselves at this time of year. Due to the City strike I was unable to launch many of my projects this season and at this time they are on hold till the end of the season. First on the list is sponsorship and Eddy Mascarenhas has done a great job. At this time we have a waiting list of people who want to sponsor our teams. This is a first.

Hope and her gang has done another great job for fundraising and as usual we have had another banner season. Betty, our sock lady has had a busy time also and managed to visit every team. Hopefully everyone had ordered. If not, please feel free to get in touch with me so we can make arrangements. At the start of our season in my meetings with the Vancouver Giants we had been informed we would only have two nights this year. Three weeks later an offer for an extra night came in and we jumped at it. We have done really well on our nights and a special thank-you to all the parents who offered to help. I would like to point out that 50/50 sellers are asked to work two full periods. We seem to have new volunteers that after one period state they have helped enough or there child they brought along is tired. This is not fair to the people who come out every time and work hard all night long. If you volunteer you must be ready to work and not watch the game.

After the season is finished I am going to do a complete inventory of the equipment room and we will also try to order new jerseys in January. This is long overdue and i will try my hardest to get this done. Thank-you all to those who are happy to help out. A special thanks to Jim Strang and Adam who spent a great deal of hours on our tournament.

James Joyce, VP Administration

VP HOUSE REPORT

It is hard to believe that the year is half over and that we are in the second half of the season. I thank you one and all for the patience that you have shown and the understanding regarding the ice. It has been challenging on all of us and I send out a heartfelt thank you to George Georgeopoulos whom worked tirelessly in getting as much ice from the get go to make sure that the players were on the ice as much as was possible.

Even though all did not go totally smooth as for balancing I believe that the Division Managers, Coaches, Managers and Families understand the importance of a Balanced association and for the most part went well and we were declared balanced by the PCAHA. I would like to thank all of the Division managers who worked very hard to insure each of the divisions were balanced and that the questions from families and coaches were dealt with in a timely manner.

As we go forward to the second half of the season I hope that all the players, parents, coaches and managers have a wonderful end to the 2007-2008 season.

Take care and see you all at the rinks.

Debbie Campbell
VP House, Vancouver Birds.

VP INITIATION REPORT (Hockey 1-4)

With the Giants Nights, the Hockey Tournaments and finally the natural flow of the regular season games and practices, I don't know about you, but I have forgotten about the tumultuous start to our season. It is easy to forget when things are going as smoothly as could be.

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. The sporadic start to our year has been a great test of our patience. Even with Initiation filled to capacity, the managers have taken on all challenges and made things go so smoothly. 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 second season of the "Intro to Hockey" program for new players to Hockey 3 and Hockey 4 has once again been a huge success. Special thanks goes out to Jim Strang and his assistant coaches for the hard work with this keen group.

Our Initiation Coaching Clinics hosted by Jim is one program that has been incredibly well received in the past. It is our intention to be able to offer that once again when more ice becomes available. These practical sessions start with Jim leading the coaches (in full equipment) through a variety of skills and drills, followed by a 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. Coaches; stay tuned for more information.

Besides visiting various teams to either lead practices or provide coaching tips, Jim has also led the Power Skating "Skills Sessions." These sessions are continuing for 2008 and are highly attended. Regardless of the high number in attendance, Jim makes it worthwhile for everyone. Once again, if more ice becomes available, we would like to offer more of these sessions.

The next challenge for our Initiation group will be the preparation for our own 20th Annual Initiation Tournament that will be held March 27th-30th. Special thanks to Adam Hayduk 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.

Grateful for your support,
Bill Juhasz, VP of Initiation

VP REP REPORT

This year we had a civic strike to add to the challenge of ice lost due to 2010 preparations. The loss of city rinks meant rep tryouts were held at UBC and Great Pacific Forum in North Delta. I really appreciate the efforts of the families and coaching staff in dealing with this significant inconvenience, especially when construction on the Alex Fraser Bridge, traveling in rush hour traffic and really wet weather was added to the mix.

The rep policy, as implemented by Ken Gordon last year and amended at the end of the season, was unpopular with a few families but was respected by the majority. Several very qualified players were assigned to house because they could not make the rep tryouts. While this was a painful process, hopefully it will encourage families to arrange their holidays around the tryouts, which for 2008, should start on August 21st.

The commitment part of the rep policy continues to be debated and solutions suggested. One recommended solution would be to have a player/parent meeting as the A and B pools are formed and have families commit at that time to be present for holiday tournaments. Those not willing to commit would have that taken into consideration when teams are formed. Honesty would be the best policy at this point. It is very divisive to a team when some families sacrifice vacations to attend tournaments and then find out others have made travel plans that conflict with our own tournaments.

We will be hosting the Bantam B Provincial Championships in March, 2008. The hosting committee has been formed and is working hard to have preparations completed to the satisfaction of BC Hockey. There are many volunteer positions available to do with the day to day running of the event, for anyone who has not yet completed their volunteer hours! We are looking for sponsors as well, so if you know someone who would like to contribute to this exciting event, please have them contact me.

Our teams have had mixed results to date but hopefully the players are all improving and learning to be part of a group with a common goal. Doing their best and learning to help their team mates do the same are lessons that will last long beyond any wins or losses. Our Midget AAA team is presently ranked #1 and has lost only one game despite numerous injuries and several of our teams play with the fewest penalty minutes in their tiers.

I would like all families to review the Rep Policy, especially the commitment policy, which is available on our website, and have a discussion between families and players to determine how committed they are to playing rep. Once players get to secondary school, there are many conflicting sports and activities that lessen the commitment to rep and our teams suffer as a consequence. Most Bantam players can fairly easily do both but Midget-aged players often sign up for rep because they've always done it and then find that they'd rather be involved in school activities. Since the school activities start throughout the hockey season, it is often too late to release from a rep team without causing major disruptions to both rep and house.

Please don't think I am discouraging anyone from playing rep. Many players handle school and rep hockey. The discipline involved in committing to a rep team can be very helpful in both time management and the work ethic to get good marks while playing a high level of hockey. Spending

non-school time staying fit, becoming part of a successful team and learning new skills can be a terrific venue for developing character. I am just asking that families make informed decisions.

The initial amendment to the Rep Policy regarding players from other associations leaving Tbirds after being selected to a rep pool was actually intended to include Tbird players who self release to house after the fifth assessment. The amendment was that those players would not be allowed to try out for rep the following season. I intend to put forward a motion to correct the wording so that it also applies to Tbird players who self-release, as was the original intent of the amendment.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the rep program, you can contact me at vprep@vancouverbirds.ca.

Karen Cooke,
VP Rep, Vancouver Thunderbirds MHA,
Email: vprep@vancouverbirds.ca
Phone: (604) 266-6368
Fax: (604) 266-9335

EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

The 2007/2008 hockey season saw the unprecedented start to the year with the City of Vancouver strike. The start of the season was a chaotic one to say the least. Access to the equipment at the start of our season was almost impossible. However, with the help of Debbie Campbell, James Joyce and George Georgeopoulos, we managed to get the equipment required to have our teams up and running. So a special thanks to them!

And a special thank you to the coaches, team managers and parents for being so patient during that difficult time.

The new Thunderbirds logo has now been placed on all of the rep jerseys. We also have the stop signs patches on all of the jerseys.

We received brand new goalie equipment this year for all of our initiation teams. I would like to ask the team managers for their support in ensuring that this equipment is maintained and that it is taken good care of so that it can last for many years to come. Team managers, please remind the parents of all initiation teams to take extra care of the goalie equipment.

Also some reminders to team managers of all divisions for the end of the year:

- ensure all jerseys are washed
- ensure jerseys are returned on hangers
- hand in a list of assigned jerseys for your team with players names, phone numbers and if possible, e-mail addresses
- have a list of issues with jerseys and/or equipment and attach it to the Equipment Tracking Form

I am still missing the bulk of the Equipment Tracking Forms from Division Managers. I remind you that these forms are required in order for the equipment to be accounted for. Please, please, please, provide your forms to be as soon as possible.

I have managed to spend some time in the equipment room organizing the equipment that we do have. My goal is to have shelving and cupboards in place by the end of the season so that when the equipment is returned, it will be placed in well organized, clean spaces.

Chris Eliopoulos
Equipment Manager

DIRECTOR OF HOCKEY OPERATIONS REPORT

After a very challenging start to our season, it is so good to be (finally) operating on a regular schedule. As the Director of Hockey Operations, one of my main areas of focus is the technical development of our players and coaches. The difficulties we faced at the onset of the season made my job exceedingly problematic. Last year by this time, I had visited every team at a practice at least once. This year, while I have not managed to see every team yet, I have plotted my schedule for the remainder of the season and I am pleased to report that I will be attending practices of the initiation and "C" teams on a regular basis. I will forward my schedule to the division managers so they can communicate to the coaches to let them know when to expect me. As I always say to the coaches: "use me as you will".

I am also pleased to report that two popular programs that I was involved in last season will again be offered commencing in January. The Atom Skills Sessions will be running on Sunday mornings and the Coach Sessions will be held on Sunday evenings at UBC. The coach sessions are a good time to be had by all; we will have about a half hour of practice drills where we share ideas, followed by a lively scrimmage (full equipment is strongly advised). I have been working on my excuses as to why so many of our coaches are better players than me and why I can't score on our goalies – the key is to act like I'm not really trying ...

At this time I want to thank all of the coaches, managers, and volunteers etc. who make it possible for our kids to enjoy this game. I am coaching a team this year and it brings home the amount of time and energy that all of the aforementioned people contribute to the Thunderbirds Association. We are blessed to have a strong contingent of coaches from Hockey 1 to Juvenile and I am proud to be a part of an association that is so well regarded in the hockey community. Our great reputation for fair play and sportsmanship is well deserved.

I feel it is very important to recognize the contribution of the Board of Directors and the appointed staff. The Thunderbirds are fortunate to have such a dedicated group on the Board; I am witness to the amazing amount of work provided by them. Some people are quick to complain or blame the Board Members when something doesn't go their way, but not enough of us thank them for doing what they do. The next time you are at the rink for a game or practice, look around and chances are you will see a Board Member there – take the time to say thanks.

Finally, I want to congratulate the organizers and volunteers of the Thunderbird Christmas Tournament. I was in attendance for the entire tournament and was pleased to see how smoothly it all went. A special thank you goes to the many T'bird players who refereed numerous games throughout the tourney – congratulations on a job well done!

See you at the rink,
Jim Strang

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

I hope that the New Year brings a healthy and prosperous 2008 for everyone. For me, it brings the fifth month of being the Executive Director for the association. From what I've seen, the Vancouver Thunderbirds are at the forefront of many initiatives: relatively low registration fees, association-sponsored goalie clinics instructed by Sean Murray from Pro-Formance, a dedicated resource in Jim Strang who's available to support all coaches as well as lead on-ice skill development for our younger players, many practice times 1.5 hours in length where other associations typically get 1 hour practice ice times which aren't always on a large ice surface, and a core group of superb volunteers...just to name a few association-related features. I have been very impressed with the foundation that exists and look forward to contributing to it.

I joined the association in the middle of the city-wide strike which obviously affected the availability of ice for our teams. We provided schedules for teams on a week-by-week basis ensuring that we distributed what little ice we had among the teams. The first challenge was to make sure that all tiering games were played by the rep teams. We need to acknowledge all the rep teams' managers and our great division managers for taking the lead with this matter. While George Georgeopoulos and I were aggressively contacting all other ice facilities in the Lower Mainland to find as much ice as possible, our team managers were contacting teams with which they had conflict home games due to the strike. Many teams from the other associations were very supportive in making available their home ice times so that our rep teams could complete their required games. Due to such proactive measures, this made more ice available for our Initiation and "C" teams to enjoy than people realized. With everyone working so hard within this unique situation, I'm happy to report that we caught up on the majority of the strike-related conflict games by the Christmas break. PCAHA was pleasantly surprised of this achievement which was a result of everyone working hard to resolve these conflicts in a difficult time. Thank you to everyone for your hard work and understanding!

I had the opportunity to meet many of the team officials during the coach and manager meetings that we held during the end of September and the beginning of October. The exchange of information was extremely thorough and efficient so everyone could get the season started. I was also pleasantly surprised with the enormous turn-out of our Initiation and "C" team officials. This reflects everyone's dedication to helping provide a strong program at these levels which can be very time consuming with on-ice commitments and having to stay on top of attending clinics and completing certifications along the way. Thank you to everyone for your contributions thus far.

Adam Hayduk

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DIVISION	AGE (on Dec31st)	# PLAYERS		# REP TEAMS		# HOUSE TEAMS	
		2006- 2007	2007- 2008	2006- 2007	2007- 2008	2006- 2007	2007 - 2008
Hockey 1	5 + 6	50	50			6	4
Hockey 2	6	76	61			6	4
Hockey 3	7	57	66			4	5
Hockey 4	8	65	75			4	5
Hockey 3- 4 Intro	7 & 8	25	31			2	2
ATOM	9 & 10	132	133	2	2	6	6
PEEWEE	11 & 12	135	149	3	3	2 CHK 3 BCT	2 CHK 4 BCT
BANTAM	13 & 14	131	142	3	3	1 CHK 4 BCT	2 CHK 4 BCT
MIDGET	15, 16 & 17	235	174	3	3	3 CHK 6 BCT	2 CHK 5 BCT
JUVENILE	18, 19 & 20	17	24	1	1		
TOTALS		923	905	12	12	47	45

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 9th season. These sessions are open to all VTMHA goalies every *Saturday 10:15 – 11:30 a.m. at UBC C rink. March 8 will be the last day.*

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.

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

Thank you to all Vancouver Thunderbird players and their families who bought and sold approximately \$ 33,000.00 of meat and sweets. The on-line ordering system was once again a great success making ordering and recording data so much 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 on photo day and the Giants Game Dec. 15, 2007. You can still purchase T-Bird wear through Action Athletic Wear – 604-873-1801 as well as on photo day Nov.25, 2007.

Honourable mention goes again this year to 8 Midget Division teams that sold \$12,019.00 worth of food products. Hockey 1-4 sold \$8529.00, Bantam teams with \$5,581.00, Peewee with \$3730.00 and Atom sold \$3,228.00 and Juvenile \$ 456.00. The team that had the highest amount in sales (\$5679.00) and therefore won the \$100.00 prize was Midget C-1. Thanks to Coach Brian Underhill, assistant coaches and the manager Gord McQueen. The Second place team, was Hockey 2 C-1 (\$2,132.00) and won a \$50.00 cash prize. Thanks to coach Stephanie Kieffer, assistant coaches and manager Danielle Micheals. Other teams that deserve honourable mention for their efforts are Midget C-7 (\$1,885.00), Bantam B-2 (\$1,788.00) Midget B-2 (\$1323.00) and Atom C-1 (\$1,127.00). Thanks to all the teams, coaches and managers who supported and promoted this fundraiser.

This year there were 145 players who sold frozen food. Of these, 72 players sold more than \$150.00 worth of frozen food products, these names were all entered in a random draw. The winner of the random draw was Cameron Woolfries Bantam C-4, he received a prize of \$100.00. The winner of the \$100.00 prize for the highest individual sales goes to Mathew Kieffer Hockey 2 C-1 (\$1777.00). The winner for the Second highest individual sales and a prize of \$50.00 was won this year by Kevin Underhill Midget C-1 (\$1621.00). Honourable mention goes to David Smith, Liam O'Connor, Mathew Veenstra, and Stephen Innes. Thanks again to all the players who participated.

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: Resha Savanovic, Shelley Rettenbacher, Sylvie Lefebvre, Jennifer Egan, Kelly Dong, Shaun Cathcart, Helen Lu and Sharon Han.

Thanks to all those who volunteered during delivery day, Gord McQueen, Alyson McKendrick, Susan Dent, Susan Sally, Shaun Cathcart, Stella Tan, Sandra Larson, Andrew Mitchell, and Donna Mitchell Hedges, Michelle Diggins, Joanne Naslund who helped unload the trucks, provided car service and filled out food orders. Special Thanks to Sandra Mills and Alyson McKendrick who worked with the SPORG program again this year.

Thank you

Hope Innes

604-732-1956 or

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 and www.pcaha.bc.ca or call 604-205-9011. Closing date for PCAHA scholarship applications is March 23, 2008.

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

August 18 - 21, 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.

REGISTRATION FEES

For the 2008 – 2009 season we cannot forecast the fees at this time. Once we determine our budget for the coming season we will update you.

ICE SCHEDULER

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new ice scheduler, Nathasa Breland. Natasha comes with extensive experience working with Minor Hockey. We admire her bravery for taking on this enormous task. We are excited to have her on board. She can be reached at ice@vancouverbirds.ca

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT REGISTRATION FOR 2007-2008

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 before that date, otherwise, your spot could be taken by a new player. Goalies should register early. Spots will be dependant on the number of skater registrations. We can only have 2 goalies per team, maximum.

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

REP COACH SELECTION

Applications for coaching a rep team are now being accepted. The application forms can be found as part of the rep policy printed on the website. 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 2008/2009 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 Peewee and above must have Developmental One coaching certification by December 1st, 2008. It is an advantage to have Dev One for Atom but Coach Stream will be accepted as long as the applicant gets Dev One within two years.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Midget AAA T-Birds Win Again!

After coming very close last year (lost the final in overtime), this year's Vancouver Thunderbird Midget AAA team claimed the association's first Richmond International Midget AAA Tournament championship with convincing 5-0 and 4-1 victories in the tournament semi-final and final. The Thunderbirds reinforced their number 1 provincial ranking, scoring 4 unanswered goals in the third period of their quarter-final matchup against number 2 ranked Ridge Meadows, including the winner with 11 seconds remaining. This capped a stunning comeback from a 3-0 deficit heading into the third period of the highly anticipated T-Birds/Ridge Meadows contest. Going undefeated at the Richmond Tournament added 8 more victories to the T-Bird's win/loss record this year of 37 wins, 1 loss and 3 ties.

The T-birds will now take a one week break, before resuming their assault on the PCAHA Midget Tier 1 regular season championship. For winning photo check out this site: <http://www.vancouverbirds.ca/Home/home/uploadedFiles/1200077599224-4690.jpg>

Colle Asuncion, Cameron Lawson and Nicholas Lee!!!

The B.C. Hockey High Performance Program recently selected its Zone 5 team for the upcoming BC Winter Games in Cranbrook (Feb. 21-24) We are proud to announce that these 3 Tbird players were selected from 85 players that attended tryouts. Best wishes to them and their team and good luck at the BC Winter Games!

VTMHA Atom C6 Team

VTMHA's Atom C6 team (The Ice Hawks) played in the Sno-King Tournament in Kirkland, Wash. over the weekend (Nov. 23-25) and the kids won! They were so thrilled. They were undefeated in the tournament.

One parent from the team said:

"It was a really exciting tournament - in just a matter of days the kids changed from a group that barely knew each other into a cohesive unit that went out and worked hard on each and every shift.

That they won was really just the icing on the cake - to see them supporting each other, working like a team and having the best time of their lives was really amazing to see."

click here to see victory photo: www.vancouverbirds.ca/Text/1169488461869-6811/uploadedFiles/1197320768102-9137.jpg

Jacob Hill

Jacob Hill our Referee In Chief, officiated his very first BCHL Junior "A" game in December. A congrats to Jacob!

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.

SUPPORT THE UBC THUNDERBIRDS www.gothunderbirds.ca

We would like to extend a thank you to UBC for providing us with some much-needed ice. Please show your support of their Thunderbirds by attending their games. The schedule for the ice hockey teams is as follows:

MEN’S ICE HOCKEY

01/18/08 * LETHBRIDGE WINTER SPORTS CENTRE WEBCAST 2-1 W
01/19/08 * LETHBRIDGE WINTER SPORTS CENTRE CiTR 7-5 W
01/25/08 * at Manitoba Winnipeg, MB 6:00 PM -
01/26/08 * at Manitoba Winnipeg, MB 6:00 PM -
02/08/08 * SASKATCHEWAN WINTER SPORTS CENTRE CiTR 7:30 PM -
02/09/08 * SASKATCHEWAN WINTER SPORTS CENTRE CiTR 7:30 PM -
02/15/08 * at Alberta Edmonton, AB 6:30 PM -
02/16/08 * at Alberta Edmonton, AB 6:30 PM -
02/22/08 Divisional Semifinals 3@2 TBA -
02/29/08 Divisional Finals @1 TBA -
03/07/08 Canada West Final @ highest seed TBA -
03/20/08 CIS Championship U of Moncton TBA -

WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY

01/18/08 * at Regina Regina, SK 6-0 W
01/19/08 * at Regina Regina, SK 3-7 L
01/25/08 * at Saskatchewan Saskatoon, SK 6:00 PM -
01/26/08 * at Saskatchewan Saskatoon, SK 6:00 PM -
02/01/08 * ALBERTA WINTER SPORTS CENTRE 7:30 PM -
02/02/08 * ALBERTA WINTER SPORTS CENTRE 7:30 PM -
02/15/08 Canada West Semis 4@1, 3@2 TBA -
02/22/08 Canada West Finals @ highest seed TBA -
03/06/08 CIS Championship U of Ottawa TBA